Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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**POLL RESULTS**

With a new minimum wage hike taking effect this week, what impact do you think it will have on the CNMI economy in general?

Positive - **69**

Negative - **36**

Mixed - **41**

No opinion - **1**

*Sunday, June 1, 2008, 7:00 PM*

INSIDE

**Quake Lake**

Chinese authorities prepared on Saturday to drain a swelling lake formed by a devastating earthquake.

ASIA...Page 17

**Anti-Cancer Drug**

A drug to prevent bone loss during breast cancer treatment also substantially cut the risk that the cancer would return.

HEALTH & FITNESS...Page 18

**Farewell Bash**

Hyatt Regency Saipan threw a classy party Friday evening to say goodbye to Michael von Siebenthal.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

'Miura entitled to bail in the CNMI, California' **PAGE 2**

Horde tries to beat BMV cutoff for fee hike. **PAGE 3**

# CUC hikes power rates further



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Saipan residents are seen shopping inside the Dolphin's Wholesale in San Jose yesterday. The release of economic stimulus checks sent consumers into a shopping frenzy during the weekend.

## Stimulus checks set off spending spree

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The release of "economic stimulus" checks sent local consumers into a shopping frenzy during the weekend.

As soon as the rebate checks hit mailboxes on Friday, long lines formed at the Bank of Guam branch in Garapan with people cashing their windfall. This continued through Sunday at the bank's branch inside PriceCostco.

Everywhere, the common refrain was, "Did you get your stimulus check yet?"

Retail stores reported a huge increase in sales, as customers bought

*See STIMULUS on Page 4*

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

TheCommonwealth Utilities Corp. had just doubled its electric fuel rates in May but that's not the end of it—CUC increased its rates further, this time by 3 cents per kilowatt hour.

Muna

From the fluctuating electric fuel rate of 35.7 cents per kWh in May, the June rate is now 38.7 cents, an increase of 3 cents.

CUC executive director Antonio Muna said that based on the latest Mid Oil Platts Singapore data received from their fuel supplier, the price for fuel—before freight and other associated charges are added on—is averaging $158 a barrel as of May 28,

*See CUC on Page 4*

> The security situation is much better. Despite this, I have a feeling that this positive situation won't last long.

## Deaths in Iraq plunge, but is it going to last?

By ROBERT H. REID
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

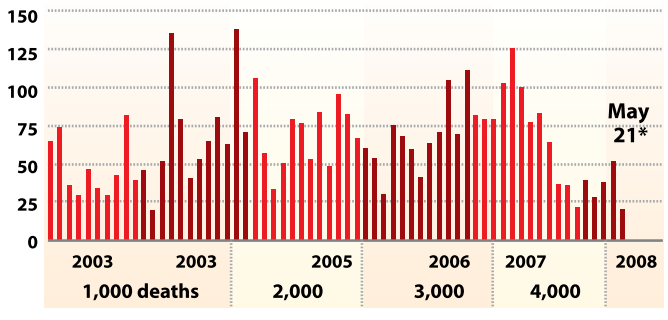
**BAGHDAD** (AP)—U.S. military deaths plunged in May to the lowest monthly level in more than four years and civilian casualties were down sharply, too, as Iraqi forces assumed the lead in offensives in three cities and a truce with

*See DEATHS on Page 4*

## U.S. troop deaths in Iraq

U.S. troop deaths in May were at the lowest level since Feb. 2004. At least 4,086 members of the U.S. military have died since the Iraq war began in March 2003.

**U.S. troop deaths by month**




*As of 1 p.m., May 21, 2008

SOURCE: AP News Research Center AP

## And then there were seven…

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Gonzales

Television talk show host John Oliver Gonzales is the latest candidate to enter the delegate race, bringing to seven the number of those who have confirmed plans to run for the post.

*See AND THEN on Page 4*

Local

# 'Miura entitled to bail in the CNMI, California'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Lawyers for Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura argue that he should be temporarily released because a defendant in a murder case is entitled to bail in the CNMI and California.

Attorney Bruce Berline, one of Miura's lawyers, argued that contrary to the prosecution's assertion in Wednesday's hearing, a person charged with murder and even murder in the first degree is entitled to a bail hearing in the CNMI and may be released on bail.

In Miura's motion for bail filed in the Superior Court on Friday, Berline cited that the Commonwealth Code states that "a person arrested for murder in the first degree may be released on bail by any judge; provided, that the district attorney is given reasonable opportunity to be heard before any application for bail is granted."

The lawyer said the California Constitution mandates the release on bail under sufficient sureties except for "capital crimes when the facts are evident or the presumption is great."

"Accordingly, even though there exists a complaint charging Miura with murder, he is entitled to a bail hearing and bail if the government cannot meet the exacting constitutional criteria," Berline said.

He said Miura's detention without bail deprives the defendant of his personal liberty without due process of law—a violation of the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Citing previous court rulings, Berline said Miura's constitutional right to be free from unreasonable governmental restraint may, under these circumstances, "be overcome only if the government can prove at a bail hearing that Miura is a flight risk or a danger to the community and then only if no set of conditions can be formulated to reasonably assure his appearance or the safety of the community."

Berline stressed that their client is not a flight risk.

He said California's weak position in the double jeopardy issue provides Miura with a very strong incentive to see this case through to completion.

In addition, Berline said, a surrender of Miura's passport would ensure his continued presence on Saipan.

"In these post 9/11 times, it is extremely difficult if not impossible for a person with Mr. Miura's notoriety to leave Saipan, unnoticed, without a valid passport," he said.

Berline described as unrealistic the prosecution argument that the surrender of a passport would not prevent Miura form absconding in a boat.

Berline cited Miura age and lack of knowledge of local waters.

The CNMI government, he said, cannot show that Miura poses a danger to the community.

"Mr. Miura is over 60 years old. Mr. Miura has committed no crimes on Saipan or in the CNMI," the lawyer said.

Berline added that notions of fundamental fairness and equity dictate that Miura should be released pending the resolution of the California proceedings and or the CNMI extradition matter.

Last Wednesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona allowed Miura's lawyers to file a motion to allow him to post bail.

Manglona gave Miura's counsel until Friday, May 30, to file the motion for bail modification and directed the Attorney General's Office to file its opposition to the motion by June 4.

The judge set the hearing for bail modification on June 6 at 2pm.

Assistant Attorney General Jeffery Warfield Sr. maintained that Miura is a flight risk.

"He is wanted for murder in California. That's a crime that carries a punishment of life imprisonment or death," Warfield argued.

On the bail eligibility in California, Warfield said that's absolutely untrue and a misstatement of law.

Miura was arrested by Saipan authorities at the Saipan International Airport on Feb. 22 in connection with the murder of his wife, Kazumi Miura, in L.A. in 1981.

Miura had already been convicted in Japan in 1994 of the crime. The verdict, however, was overturned by Japan's high court 10 years ago.

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# Horde tries to beat BMV cutoff

## Belated arrival of films, outages, increased fees, driver education cited as reasons

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The impending increase in government service fees and a change in regulation to soon require applicants to undergo driver education resulted in a huge crowd of people flocking to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles office in Susupe last Friday.

The situation was compounded by the belated arrival of the film supply for driver's licenses and a series of power outages.

To accommodate the hundreds of customers, the BMV, at the instruction of Public Safety Commissioner Claudio K. Norita, opened on Saturday for those who wished to take the driver's written test and for those who already paid for the actual driving test on Friday.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* on Friday, BMV director Juana C. Leon Guerrero said about 300 to 400 people showed up since that morning.

"It's too crowded," Leon Guerrero said when asked why it was so hot at the BMV.

Last Thursday, BMV had a lot of customers too, but most of them were sent home because of the islandwide power outage that day.

"Most of these customers that are here today were here yesterday [Thursday] but we had to send them home because of the power outages and we don't want to keep them here," Leon Guerrero said.

The official said they ran out of films since Friday last week and their supply from New York only arrived on Thursday.

Other reasons cited were the on-and-off power, increase of government fees effective today, June 2, and the registration of vehicles at the end of the month.

Leon Guerrero said many customers also took the written test because of the law that will require first-time driver's license applicants to undergo driver education.

Last Friday, a power outage occurred at noon, prompting Leon Guerrero to advise customers to return at 2pm that day.

"My advice to people is bear with us. Be patient. We are trying to accommodate everybody," she said.

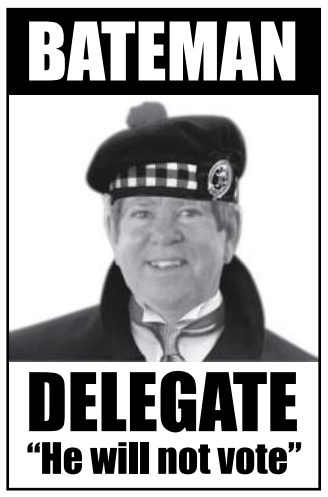
With respect to the driver education, Norita is reportedly working on the implementation of a law that will require all first-time driver's license applicants to undergo formal education at a DPS certified school.

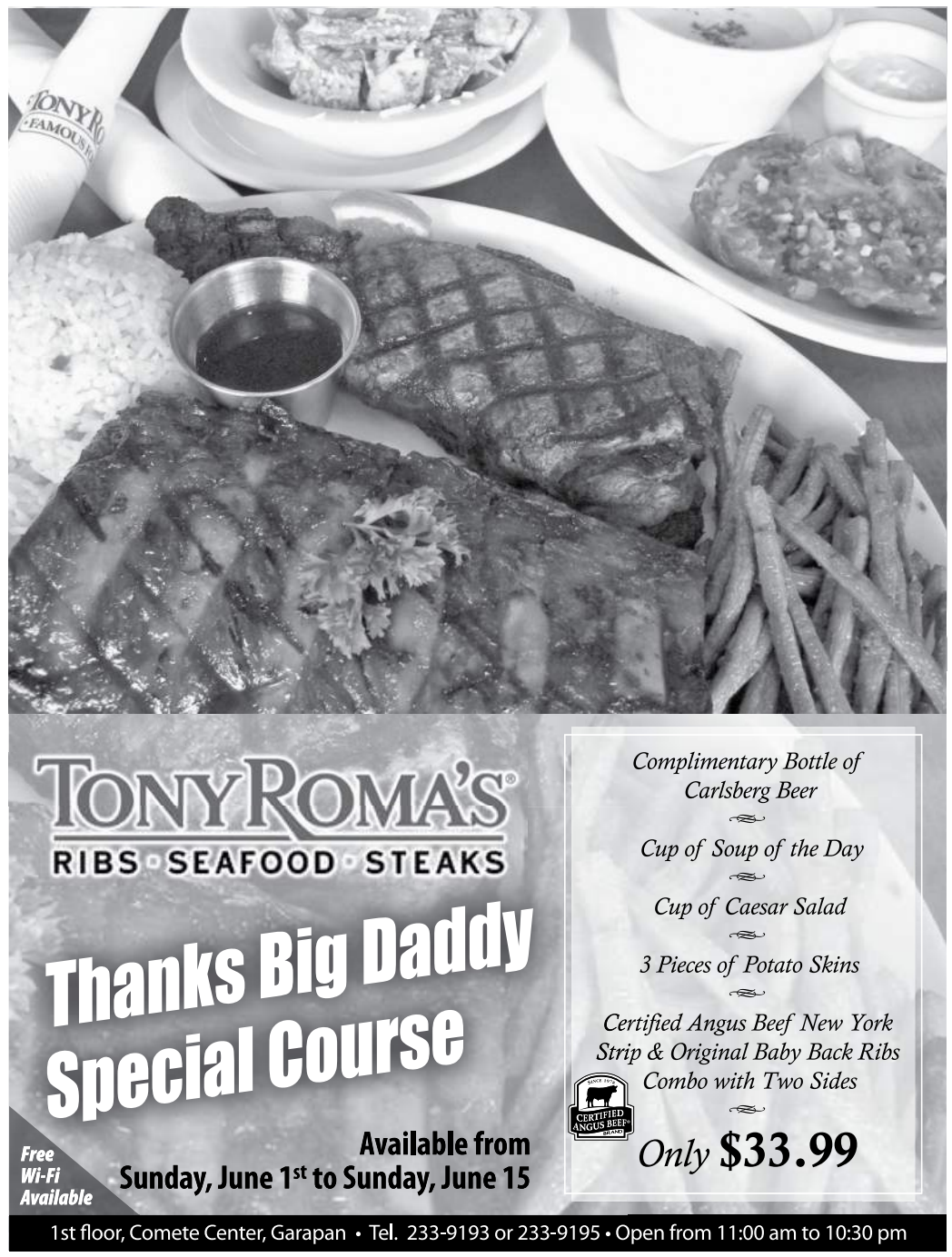
Norita and Leon Guerrero collaborated with Driver Training Academy's Richard Puhalla to complete the driver education project that began in August 2006.

On May 5, 2008 Public Law 15-25 or the Mandatory Driver Education Act of 2006 was enacted. The Acts' rules and regulations have been submitted, approved, and adopted. The enforcement of the Act is slated to start today, June 2.

When that occurs, all first-time driver license applicants will be required to complete 30 hours of classroom and six hours of laboratory instruction at a DPS certified school.

Similarly, the students will need to log 24 hours of additional behind-the-wheel practice accompanied by an adult licensed to drive in the CNMI.

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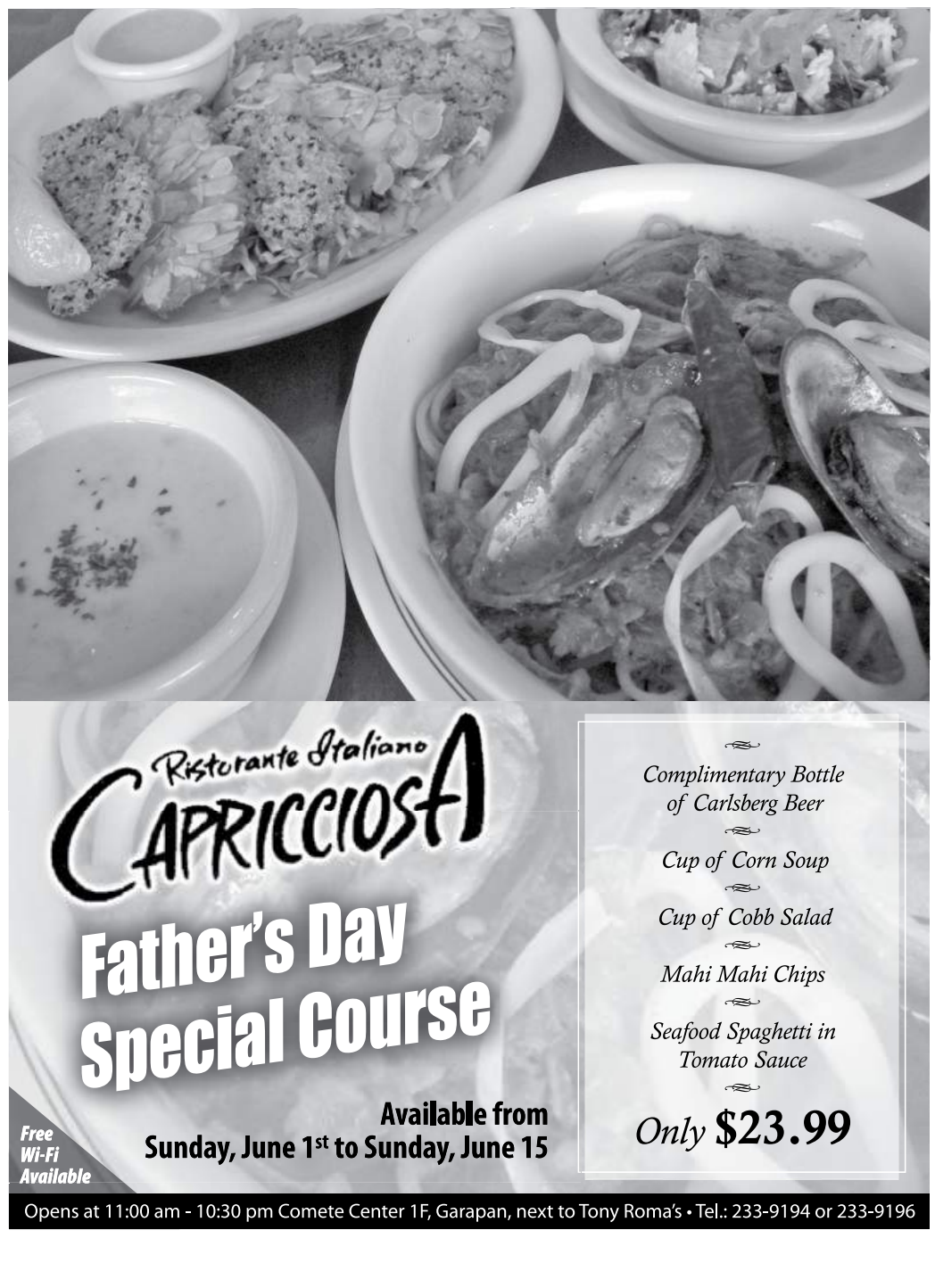
**SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2008**

| CUSTOMER CLASSIFICATIONS | MONTHLY CUSTOMER CHARGES (FIXED) | RATES PER KILOWATT-HOUR (kWh) ELECTRIC NON-FUEL RATES (FIXED) | ELECTRIC FUEL RATES (FLUCTUATES) | TOTAL RATES PER kWh |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RESIDENTIAL** | $ 5.60 | | | |
| 1. First 500 kWh (1 To 500) | | $ 0.016 | $ 0.387 | $ 0.403 |
| 2. Second 500 kWh (501 To 1,000) | | 0.066 | 0.387 | 0.453 |
| 3. Next 1,000 kWh (1,001 To 2,000) | | 0.086 | 0.387 | 0.473 |
| 4. All kWh After 2,000 (Over 2,000) | | 0.127 | 0.387 | 0.514 |
| **COMMERCIAL** (All kWh Billed) | $ 7.67 | $ 0.086 | $ 0.387 | $ 0.473 |
| **GOVERNMENT** (All kWh Billed) | $ 7.67 | $ 0.091 | $ 0.387 | $ 0.478 |
| **NON-CONFORMING LOAD** (All kWh Billed) | $ 56.00 | $ 0.222 | $ 0.387 | $ 0.609 |

**HISTORY OF ELECTRIC FUEL RATES:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **JANUARY 07** | $ 0.196 | **NOVEMBER 07** | $0.258 |
| **FEBRUARY 07** | $ 0.188 | **DECEMBER 07** | $0.258 |
| **MARCH 07** | $ 0.188 | **JANUARY 08** | $0.258 |
| **APRIL 07** | $ 0.191 | **FEBRUARY 08** | $0.253 |
| **MAY 07** | $ 0.222 | **MARCH 08** (RES. ONLY) | $0.176 |
| **JUNE 07** | $ 0.221 | **MARCH 08** (ALL OTHERS) | $0.288 |
| **JULY 07** | $ 0.223 | **APRIL 08** (RES. ONLY) | $0.176 |
| **AUGUST 07** | $ 0.223 | **APRIL 08** (ALL OTHERS) | $0.327 |
| **SEPTEMBER 07** | $ 0.228 | **MAY 08** (RES. ONLY, UP TO 5/2/08) | $0.176 |
| **OCTOBER 07** (RES. ONLY) | $ 0.176 | **MAY 08** (RES. ONLY, 5/3 - 31/08) | $0.357 |
| **OCTOBER 07** (ALL OTHERS) | $ 0.228 | **MAY 08** (ALL OTHERS) | $0.357 |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# Lawmakers OK bill requiring DPL to consult mayors on lands issue

The Legislature has passed a bill requiring the Department of Public Lands to consult the mayors before taking any action on public lands in the respective islands.

The House of Representatives voted unanimously on Thursday to approve the bill, which was previously passed by the Senate. The measure now heads to the governor for his signature.

Under the proposed legislation, DPL must give the respective mayors a 20-day review and comment period before taking final action on lease, homestead, or any other decision concerning the use of public lands in the Commonwealth.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Henry San Nicolas, is designed to ensure that "due consideration [is given] to the position of each of the municipalities of Saipan, Rota, Tinian and Aguiguan, and the Northern Islands with respect to proposed action affecting public lands in the respective municipality."

Public Lands Secretary John S. Del Rosario has opposed the proposal. He has said this step is redundant, as the DPL advisory board already includes municipal representative appointed by the respective mayors with the consent of the municipal councils.

"Redundancy is one of the main culprits in misunderstandings, confusion, and inefficiency within our government. Let's not add to it," Del Rosario has commented on the bill.

But the House Committee on Natural Resources, which reviewed the bill, maintained that the proposal was necessary. "It is the committee's estimation that any matter regarding the disposition of public lands [is] worthy of lengthy deliberation," said the committee. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

**GETTING A HEAD START** JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A large election campaign billboard aimed at urging CNMI residents to vote for Sen. Luis P. Crisostomo to become the first Northern Marianas delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives is seen on the sidewalk in As Terlaje Hill going up NMC yesterday. The campaign season has yet to begin but Crisostimo is already beating his rivals to the draw with this oversized election billboard that went up over the weekend.

## CUC

*From Page 1*

compared to the average price of $138 a barrel in April 2008.

Muna said the June 2008 kilowatt hour sales is projected at 20.8 million, resulting in a projected total fuel and lube cost of $8 million.

"The increasing cost of fuel is primarily the reason for the 3-cent increase per kilowatt hour that our consumers will be experiencing," he added.

Under CUC's June rates, residential customers will be assessed 40.3 cents per kWh for the first 500 kWh—the highest ever electric rate in the CNMI.

For those consuming 501 to 1,000 kWh, they will be charged 45.3 cents per kWh; for 1,001 to 2,000 it will be 47.3 cents per kWh; and for those using over 2,000 kWh, the new rate will be 51.4 cents per kWh.

The situation is even worse for businesses. Under the revised June rate, they will be assessed 47.3 cents per kWh, compared to 44.3 cents per kWh the previous month.

For government, this month's rate is now 47.8 cents per kWh, compared to 44.8 per kWh the previous month.

For non-conforming load, the June rate is now 60.9 cents per kWh. Last month the rate was 57.9 cents per kWh.

"This is too much. I will not spend my stimulus check anymore, it will just go straight to CUC," a visibly stunned customer told *Saipan Tribune*.

CUC first revised its power rates on May 3, more than doubling the island's power rates. This happened after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial approved the law suspending the power rates rollback that was passed by the Legislature.

Since March 2008 up to May 2008, residential customers had been paying the lowest rate at 17.6 cents per kWh, pursuant to Public Law 15-94.

Residential customers first experienced the lowest fuel rates in October 2007 when P.L. 15-94 took effect, putting a cap on power rates at 17.6 cents per kWh.

With the administration's signing of emergency regulations on Nov. 9, 2007, the electric fuel rate for residential customers jumped from 17.6 cents per kWh to 25.8 cents per kWh from that month until January 2008. When the emergency regulation lapsed in March, the rates returned to the October 2007 level. In May, Fitial signed the law suspending the rollback, resulting in the return to high power rates.

CUC argues that the high rate reflects the actual cost of producing power on the islands.

## STIMULUS

*From Page 1*

things they could not afford with regular pay. Bars, restaurants, and beauty shops saw a rush of customers eager to give themselves a treat.

"It almost feels like Christmas," observed Ricardo Castro, general manager at Dolphin's Wholesale, which allowed customers to pay with their checks if they spend at least 10 percent of the amount at the store.

Castro said customers spent an average of $200 for each transaction. Baby products, kitchenware, and electronic gadgets were some of the most popular items.

Ralph Yumul, general manager at YCO Corporation, said that customers brought their checks to YCO Hardware to buy furniture and gardening equipment.

Yumul, whose family also owns the Naked Fish restaurant and the Jollibee franchise on Saipan, said he expects the busy period to continue until the coming weekend, as more people cash their rebates. Some taxpayers got their checks late Friday afternoon, and were not able to cash them.

Sunshine, an employee at a local beauty shop, said customers came in not just for a haircut, but for various kinds of beauty treatment as well.

But while many local residents spent their rebate checks on practical and personal things, there were also those who lost their windfall gambling. A man, who refused to be named, told the *Saipan Tribune* that he lost $80 of his rebate in a poker room on Friday evening.

The U.S. government sent $16.1 million for the payment of economic stimulus rebates to Commonwealth taxpayers.

On Friday, the Department of Finance released a first batch of approximately 11,000 rebate checks. This represents nearly half of the income tax returns filed for 2007.

The federal rebates range up to $600 for an individual and $1,200 for a couple. Families with children will get $300 per child. The law guarantees workers who earned at least $3,000 in 2007 will receive at least a $300 tax rebate.

The rebates would phase out gradually for single taxpayers whose adjusted gross incomes exceeds $75,000 and for couples with incomes over $150,000.

The rebates were the centerpiece of the U.S. government's $168 billion economic stimulus package enacted in February and are designed to bolster consumer spending and stir the sluggish economy.

## AND THEN

*From Page 1*

Gonzales announced on Saturday his bid to become the Northern Marianas' first delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. He is running as an independent candidate.

Currently serving as the director of the Department of Public Lands' mining division, Gonzales has worked for the government in various capacities since 1993. He has also hosted the John Gonzales LIVE talk show program on Flametree KSPN 2, formerly MCV, for the past 15 years.

In an interview, Gonzales said the delegate job is much like hosting a talk show. "As a delegate, your principal obligation is to bring issues to the people, allow them to voice their concerns, and take those concerns to our leaders in Washington, D.C. If I'm elected, I will be a medium, a facilitator between the U.S. Congress and our people," he said.

Gonzales said his priority is to ensure the CNMI gets the maximum possible economic and capital infrastructure benefits from the anticipated military buildup in the region. He also plans to lobby for immediate bailout money for the local utility, tourism, and workforce training.

Gonzales said his strengths lie in his "humble beginnings, untainted reputation, and lack of connection to any special interest."

He trumpeted his strong academic background—he holds a master's degree in international management from University of Phoenix and graduated summa cum laude with a political science degree from Washington State University. He also had experience working in Washington, D.C. as an intern with the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1992.

He said his supporters include former Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, former Northern Marianas College president Agnes M. McPhetres, and attorney Robert T. Torres, who was previously rumored to be running for delegate.

Others who have expressed their intent to run for the post are Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo, Rep. Ray N. Yumul, retired Judge Juan T. Lizama, Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Gregorio Sablan, and attorney Victorino Torres.

The election is on Nov. 4, 2008. The official period for submitting candidacy papers is from July 7 to August 6, 2008.

## DEATHS

*From Page 1*

Shiite extremists took hold.

But many Iraqis as well as U.S. officials and private security analysts are uncertain whether the current lull signals a long-term trend or is simply a breathing spell like so many others before.

U.S. commanders also warn the relative peace is fragile because no lasting political agreements have been reached among the Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish communities.

Talks on returning Sunnis to the government broke down this week, and tensions among rival Shiite parties remain high despite a May 11 truce that ended weeks of bloody fighting in Baghdad's Sadr City district.

Iraqis have experienced lulls in the past—notably after the January 2005 elections—only to see violence flare again.

"The security situation is much better than in the past three or four months, and I am making more money now," said Falih Radhi, who runs a food store in eastern Baghdad. "Despite this, I have a feeling that this positive situation won't last long and that violence may come back again."

Nevertheless, the figures for May are encouraging, especially coming as the United States continues withdrawing the nearly 30,000 reinforcements that President Bush sent to Iraq early last year to curb the wave of Shiite-Sunni slaughter.

All five of the "surge brigades" rushed to Iraq last year will be gone by July, lowering the troop strength to about 140,000, U.S. officials say. There are currently about 155,000 U.S. troops in Iraq.

At least 21 American troopers were killed in May—four in non-hostile incidents. That's one more than the lowest monthly figure of the war set in February 2004.

Meanwhile, Iraqi deaths were down, too.

At least 532 Iraqi civilians and security troopers were killed during the month, according to figures compiled by The Associated Press from Iraqi police and military reports. That's down sharply from April's figure of 1,080 and the lowest monthly total this year, according to the AP count.

Last Sunday, military spokesman Rear Adm. Patrick Driscoll said the number of attacks in the previous week fell to a level "not seen since March 2004," although he did not give specific figures.

At the same time, Iraqi forces have taken the lead in offensives against the Sunni extremist al-Qaida in Iraq in the northern city of Mosul and against Shiite militiamen in Baghdad and Basra in the south.

U.S. and coalition forces assumed a support role in the three offensives, enabling them to avoid higher casualties which would have been expected had they been doing all the fighting.

With the trends looking positive, the top American commander in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus, said in Washington last week that he is likely to recommend further troop cuts in Iraq but won't promise more details until fall—as the U.S. presidential election campaign is approaching its climax.

But U.S. officials and private security analysts warn against rapid withdrawals and optimistic forecasts.

Former Pentagon analyst Anthony Cordesman wrote this week that despite some improvements among Iraqi forces, both Iraqi and U.S. officials continue "to sharply exaggerate the real-world readiness" of the country's army and police.

Petraeus himself said it's unlikely that Iraqi security forces can take the lead in all 18 provinces this year, as was recently predicted by the Pentagon.

"The overall trend in Iraq is positive, but we should be skeptical about overly optimistic assessments that we've 'turned the corner' in Iraq," said Eric Rosenbach of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs and a former staffer of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

"It's more appropriate to say that we have a long road ahead of us rather than we've turned the corner."

The reason for such caution is that many of the issues that contributed to the Iraq conflict remain unresolved—notably how the various ethnic and religious groups will share power.

# Bush eyes Pacific WWII sites as national monument

By AUDREY McAVOY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**HONOLULU** (AP)—President George W. Bush has asked his defense and interior secretaries to look into designating Pearl Harbor and other historic World War II sites in the Pacific a national monument.

A May 29 presidential memo to Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne said such status could offer the sites additional protection.

"These objects of historical and scientific interest may tell the broader story of the war, the sacrifices made by America and its allies, and the heroism and determination that laid the groundwork for victory in the Pacific and triumph in World War II," Bush said.

The letter, posted on the White House Web site, does not say what specific places Bush has in mind aside from Pearl Harbor.

Parts of the naval base are already under some form of protection or have historic designation.

The USS Arizona, an underwater grave for over 1,100 sailors and Marines unable to escape the ship before it sank during the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attack, is currently part of the USS Arizona Memorial run by the National Park Service.

Ford Island, where several of the Navy's battleships were moored during the attack, is a National Historic Landmark.

The island, located at the center of Pearl Harbor, is home to historic airplane hangers that survived the aerial assault. A red and white striped airplane control tower on Ford Island delivered the first radio broadcast of the attack.

Next door to Pearl Harbor, the top Air Force commander in the Pacific today has his headquarters in a building that served as barracks for Army airmen in 1941. Bullet holes left by Japanese machine guns are still visible on the outside of the structure's concrete walls.

Outside Hawaii, crucial battles were fought at Midway, Wake and Guam islands. All are still U.S. territory.

Today, Midway is mainly a wildlife bird refuge and key node in the island chain making up the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument that Bush established in 2006. The former naval base, where the U.S. defeated Japan in June 1942 to turn the tide of World War II in the Pacific, was named a National Historic Landmark in 1986.

Many areas—particularly Pearl Harbor, Hickam Air Force Base, and Guam—that would likely be eligible for inclusion in the monument are still actively used today by the U.S. military.

Making them part of a monument could complicate daily operations for the services. But Bush's memo told Gates and Kempthorne that national monument classification should not interfere with the military's business.

"Please consider in your assessment that any proposed actions should not limit the Department of Defense from carrying out the mission of the various branches of the military," Bush said.

The Antiquities Act of 1906 gives the president the authority to make national monuments of "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest." The president does not need Congressional approval to do designate monuments.

Other national monuments include the Statue of Liberty, designated by Calvin Coolidge in 1924, and the Grand Canyon, made a national monument by Herbert Hoover in 1932.

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Club at the Hyatt cards welcome

Father's Day Brunch at Giovanni's and Kili Cafe & Terrace
Sunday, June 15th 2008
10:30am - 2:00pm
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Club at the Hyatt cards welcome

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# Man'amko holds annual ball

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Friday night was transformed into an evening of ageless beauty and bearing when the CNMI Aging Office crowned the 2008 Man'Amko King and Queen and the members of their Royal Court.

Crowned as this year's Man'Amko King and Queen were Felipe Santiago and Rosalia T. Sablan. Fortunato Rejano and Antonia Aguon were crowned Prince and Princess, while the Royal Court featured Jacoba Asuncion, Manual Mesa, Terry Sorroza, Jesus Kisa, Rosario Ibanez, Jose Torres, Christiana Michael, and Terry Sitae.

The coronation reception ceremony culminated the celebration of May as Older Americans Month.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

2008 CNMI Man'amko Queen Rosalia T. Sablan dances with her Royal Court during the coronation ball Friday night.

The Coronation Ball began with the posting of colors by the Kagman JROTC Color Guards.

Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente graced Friday night's event, while the Marianas High School and Kagman High School JROTC assisted the senior citizens during the ceremony.

Aging Office director Howard I Macaranas, coordinator Walter Manglona, and Novelyn Tenorio hosted the ceremony, which drew a good number of man'amko and their families.

The 2008 Mes Man'Amko Planning Committee acknowledged the support and assistance of all sponsors and individuals who have extended generous contributions in ensuring the success of the Older Americans Month celebration.

Macaranas stressed the need to protect the rights and interests of the CNMI's senior citizens and noted the importance of the annual Man'amko Coronation ball to the senior citizens.

"This is considered a tradition already. No matter how hard we try to ignore it, it's so hard. It is the highlight of the entire man'amko event [Mes'Manamko]," Macaranas said.

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela endorsed the a proclamation earlier in the month, designating May as Mes Man'Amko/Maramual Tuufey, or Older Americans Month, an annual event celebrated across the United States and its territories.

Tudela said he has given his heartfelt support to the program for the past seven years because he knows that the elderly deserve care and support. "Without them, their children and children's children will not be who they are and what they are today," he said.

# Convict gets 7 mos. for violating his probation

The federal court on Friday revoked the supervised release of a man convicted of robbery eight years ago and sentenced him to seven months in prison for violating his probation.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson also ordered Melvin Nakatsukasa Basa to participate in a substance abuse program approved by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons while in jail.

Upon his release, Basa will be placed on 53 months of supervised release.

During the supervised release, the defendant will be required to perform 300 hours of community service and participate in a substance abuse program, among other conditions.

U.S. Probation Officer Margarita Wonenberg sought the revocation of Basa's probation.

Basa was sentenced on Feb. 25, 2000, to 102 months in prison for robbery. The court placed the defendant on five years of probation. Basa's term of supervised release began on Feb. 16, 2007.

Wonenberg said that during drug testing on May 19, 2008, Basa tested presumptive positive for "ice" use and admitted using the drug three days before.

The probation officer said Basa admitted to using drugs on at least five occasions.

Wonenberg said that on May 20, 2008, Basa's girlfriend obtained a temporary restraining order against him for allegedly beating her and slapping her daughter. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Further, **ELIZABETH C. MANGLONA** is unauthorized to transact business on behalf of such corporations.

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# Janet Phan is this year's GCA valedictorian

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Janet Laquian Phan, a 17-year-old senior at Grace Christian Academy, did her parents proud Friday after being recognized as this year's Valedictorian during the commencement exercise held at the campus.

JANET LAQUIAN PHAN
*Valedictorian*

Phan, daughter of Jack and Minda Phan, was also the second runner up for the Eagle Award. Phan was also the school's senior class treasurer and National Honor Society president.

DA MIN KIM
*Salutatorian*

Da Min Kim, the former student council treasurer and NHS vice president, was awarded Salutatorian, while Charis Dunn Lopez received the prestigious Eagle Award.

CHARIS DUNN LOPEZ
*Eagle Award*

The Eagle Award is given to students who demonstrate excellence in academics, citizenship, and Christian character.

The three were among the 12 GCA students who graduated this year, heralded by the theme "Choose to win."

Phan said, "We were in this journey together since the very beginning and now it's coming to an end. We have gone through a whole lot together and have made many memories that I will never forget. Keep reaching for your goals. Never give up. Continue to have a relationship with God. He will never let you down. I wish you all the best in life."

Kim, on the other hand, said: "Time went by really fast, and I still can't believe that I'm graduating! I'm really happy, but at the same time, really sad. My years in Grace Christian Academy are valuable, and I will surely miss it."

Both expressed gratitude to God, family and the GCA faculty and staff.

Saipan Mayor Juan Borja Tudela had encouraging words for the graduates. "Your journey should be a contributing and positive force in society regardless if you are an ordinary citizen, a college student, a businessperson, a service provider, a caregiver, a community leader or a spiritual leader. In some way, all of us are in pursuit of a place called life, a place called community, like raising family, joining the military, or even charting a new path in life previously uncharted and unexplored, inspired by the music in your heart and guided by your abiding faith in Almighty," he said.

"From here on always, there is but no time to look back, or even stand still. We must all look forward to the future and help one another reach our goals in life with integrity and honesty," he added.

GCA principal Faith Dela Rosa told the graduating class, "We will be committed to pray for you and we look forward to hearing back from you and seeing you come back in God's time."

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Grace Christian Academy senior graduates pose with Saipan Mayor Juan Borja Tudela, GCA principal Faith Dela Rosa, Pastor Ray Kinsella and GCA board members during their senior high Commencement Exercise Friday afternoon.

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# House committee sets Rota public hearing

The House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations will conduct a public hearing on Rota this Saturday, June 7, to receive testimonies on several pending legislations that include the proposal for an elected attorney general and the creation of a new immigration category for long-term alien workers.

The committee, chaired by Rep. Rosemond B. Santos, will hold the hearing from 8am to 5pm at the Rota Round House.

Testimonies will be received for following legislations:

■ H.J.R. 16-3: "To put the question of calling a Constitutional Convention before the voters of the CNMI".

■ H.L.I. 16-1: "To amend Article IV of the Commonwealth Constitution to establish a commission on the judiciary and to establish that written opinions and decisions of the CNMI Superior Court and Supreme Court be issued within one year of submission of the case for opinion or decision".

■ H.L.I. 16-10: "To amend Article IV, Section 5 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to authorize the election of the Chief Justice and Presiding Judge by a majority of the Justices and Judges, respectively".

■ H.L.I. 16-2: "To amend Article III, Section 11 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marian Islands to authorize the election of an Attorney General".

■ H.L.I. 16-6: "To amend Article Section III Section 9 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands to require the adoption of an annual budget".

■ H.L.I. 16-7: "To amend Article II, Sections 2, 3, 5, 10, 13, 16, and 17 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands to improve efficiency and accountability in the Legislative Branch of Government".

■ H.L.I. 16-11: "To amend Article III, Section 9(a), of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to prohibit the withdrawal of any funds from the General Fund except by appropriations made by law".

■ H.B. 16-38, CS1: "To streamline the Government Employment Process the Commonwealth by Repealing and Reenacting the Civil Service Law, Converting certain Government Positions to the Civil Service, and Establishing an Administrative Office of the Courts; and for other purposes".

■ H.B. 16-86: "To amend the Commonwealth Entry and Deportation Act (3 CMC § 4301 ET SEQ.) to create the Immigration Category of "Resident Foreign National"; and for other purposes".

Interested members of the public must submit written testimony to the committee on or before June 30, 2008. ***(PR)***



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## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### June 02, 1999

**Food stamp grantees increase 18 percent**

As the island's economy continues to reel from the effects of the Asian-wide financial crisis, the number of food stamp recipients jumped 18 percent from October to April 1999 compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year. With this increase, the Nutritional Assistance Program now incurs close to $350,000 in monthly expenses for a total of 4,501 recipients.

**Teno gets high marks from legislators**

Legislators believe Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio is doing well in his job so far, but the biggest challenge against his leadership still lies ahead as the Northern Marianas continues to face twin assaults from the U.S. and the Asian region. On the eve of the annual State of the Commonwealth address, most members of the Legislature give a high rating to Tenorio's handling of the economic and financial crisis that have dogged the island since his political comeback in January 1998.

**Reyes lets out steam vs. federal takeover**

Apparently fed up with U.S. threats to strip CNMI authority over its labor and immigration standards, Rep. Karl T. Reyes yesterday challenged Washington to give them voting power in the Congress in exchange for the takeover plan. "A lot of these politicians in the United States think that out here the people, because of the color, are brown niggers and they are very segregationist," he said.

### June 02, 2000

**Democrats, Reform may form coalition**

The Democrats and the Reform Party must join forces if they want to ensure their victory over the Republicans in next year's general elections, according to Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero. He said, however, there has yet a formal move to form a coalition between the two parties, although he has broached the idea to Reform Party leaders and even to former Lt. Gov. Jesus C. Borja who is seeking the nomination by the Democrats for the November 2001 gubernatorial race.

**CDA hopes to secure fresh SBA funds**

The Commonwealth Development Authority is confident the United States Small Business Administration will approve its request for fresh funds that will replenish its depleting portfolio for small-scale investors in the Northern Marianas. Executive Director Marylou S. Ada disclosed CDA is approaching near to the sealing of another agreement with the Guam-based SBA for at least $700,000 in additional funds that will be earmarked for local applicants wishing to put up or expand small-scale investments.

**Formal complaint lodged against *Variety***

In what appears to be an interesting twist of events, a local company that pioneered news reporting in the Northern Marianas turns out to be a good source of news itself. *Marianas Variety* is now stormed with formal complaints for alleged unfair labor practice, an untimely resignation of its production manager and a runaway employee who escaped barely a month after his arrival on Saipan.

### June 02, 2003

**Babauta denies knowing Wright prior to hiring**

Gov. Juan N. Babauta denies having prior knowledge about Northern Marianas College president Kenneth Wright before his hiring as president last August. Babauta made the statement in reference to a letter from a concerned citizen that has been circulating since last month, claiming it was the governor who actually recommended Wright to the NMC Board of Regents.

**EMO: Ash advisory still in effect**

The Emergency Management Office said its advisory on the volcanic ash emission from Anatahan remains in effect, as the erupting volcano continued to display activity for the 23rd day yesterday. "The advisory is still in effect. The upper level of the wind is going south," said EMO director Rudolfo Pua, citing communications with the National Weather Service on Guam.

**NMC seeks Pacific Gateway marketing study**

The Northern Marianas College Board has yet to come up with a marketing study for its proposed Pacific Gateway program, months after college authorities pushed for its immediate funding. The NMC put out last week a request for proposals for interested firms to perform a marketing study for the program. In a newspaper ad last Friday, signed by NMC finance and administrative services director David Atalig and procurement officer Ignacia B. Villaluz, the NMC said interested contractors can get copies of the proposal package from the Saipan campus procurement office on weekdays.

# Anita Hofschneider tops 25 MBA graduates

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Baptist Academy celebrated its 21st commencement exercise Friday evening for 25 of its graduates.

MBA graduated 11 high school students and 13 middle school students.

**ANITA HOFSCHNEIDER**
*Valedictorian*

**NICOLE SONIA CASTRO**
*Salutatorian*

**ROGER KWON LEE**
*Salutatorian*

Anita Hofschneider, speaker of the 10th Youth Congress and recipient of the school's leadership award, was named as this year's valedictorian. She is the daughter of James and Penelope Hofschneider.

In her remarks, Hofschneider shared that even though she and her fellow graduates had looked forward to graduating for a long time, "I also know that most of us are scared, make that terrified, about going to college and leaving MBA."

"For a long time, MBA has been the only world that we've known and it hasn't been easy—but its always been familiar. And the closer to the day that we leave the people and the place that we have come to love, the harder it is to believe that we're actually ready to go," Hofschneider said.

She also said that no matter how sad it is to leave the school and no matter how intimidating it might be to enter another, "all of us are ready. We are ready because the challenges we have overcome at MBA have made us strong enough to face the challenges in the future."

MBA had two salutatorians this year—Roger Kwon Lee who will be attending the University of California, and Nicole Sonia Castro who will be attending Boise State University.

Other high school graduates in the A Honors list were Titania Cho, Sang Woo Ju, and Jeong Hyun Joo.

On the B Honors list were Jae Wan Kim, Jamie Vales and Gospel Trinidad. Trinidad was also the recipient of the Citizenship Award, Christian Service Award, Loyalty Award, and the Journalism Award.

Teachers, family, and friends gathered at the Multi-Purpose Center to witness the graduation ceremony.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The honor students of the Marianas Baptist Academy have a group picture taken during MBA's 21st Commencement Exercise at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Friday night.

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The filing of a transfer application does **not** automatically authorize a foreign national worker to begin working for his or her new employer. In order to begin the new employment, a permit must be issued or the parties must obtain a Conditional Grant of Transfer **approved** by the Director of Labor.

*A receipt for the payment of fees does **NOT** authorize a foreign national worker to work.*

Employers must attach a completed Conditional Grant of Transfer form to each transfer permit application. However, simply submitting the Conditional Grant form does not authorize the worker to begin working. The Conditional Grant must be **approved** before work can begin. [The parties should look for the "approval" signature of a Labor official at the bottom of the form. If the signature is absent, the Conditional Grant has not been approved.] The yellow copy of the Conditional Grant is the worker's temporary permit to work.

Once a Conditional Grant is approved, the employer must begin employing the worker immediately. If employment is not offered immediately, the employer would be liable for breach of contract.

## NOTICE OF HEARINGS PENDING DENIAL APPEALS FOR JUNE 05 & 06, 2008

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Please bring any documentation necessary to resolve the issues that led to the denial of your permit application. If you fail to appear or fail to bring required documentation, the appeal may be dismissed and an administrative order may be entered against you. Any employee who intends to request permission to transfer to a new employer must appear at the hearing to make that request; failure to appear may result in immediate denial of transfer relief.

| CASE NO. | EMPLOYEE | EMPLOYER | HEARING DATE | TIME |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DC 08-553 | Dai, Hai Qin | Caihua Corporation | June 6, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-542 | Fabon, Conchita E. | Camacho, Andres T. | June 6, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-547 | Rivera, Raul M. | Camacho, Anita A. | June 6, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-076 | Jocson, Raul I. | Castro, Eliseo M. | June 6, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-528 | Concepcion, Kermit | Commercial Trading of Spn. Inc. | June 5, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-546 | Fernandez, Cora M. | D L Corporation | June 6, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-533 | Ruga, Cirila L. | Dayrit, Amado G. | June 6, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-340 | Martinez, Rosmari N. | Elizah Gemme Store | June 5, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-557 | Wang, Jianhua | Javili General Partnership | June 6, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-237 | Wu, Zhi Ren | Lucky De Corp. | June 5, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-238 | He, Chuan | Lucky De Corp. | June 5, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-422 | Guan, Qili | Luo's Corporation | June 5, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-549 | Arsenal, Sonia M. | Macatangay Dermhealth Spn,LLC | June 6, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-534 | Valencia, Ramon E. | One Call Incorporated | June 6, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-531 | Retirado, Beulah M. | Orilly, Marilyn P. | June 5, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-240 | Licop, Bernard Oliver C. | Provident Corporation | June 5, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-530 | Bachicha, Ruben S. | Ramangmou, Thomas | June 5, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-548 | Penarubia, Daisy A. | Sablan, Patrick P. | June 6, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-529 | Deseo, Maricar I. | SBR Ent. Inc. | June 5, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-209 | Wang, Qi | Success Int'l. Corporation | June 5, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-207 | Tataro, Silvano P. | Success Int'l. Corporation | June 5, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-208 | Cabrera, Emelito M. | Success Int'l. Corporation | June 5, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-556 | Uzzaman, Akhter | Taitano, Joseph S. | June 6, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-350 | Fernandez-Santos, Zaida Verano | Williams, Edward W. / Susie F. | June 5, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-550 | Reyes, Erlinda S. | Winchells Donut Inc. | June 6, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |

# Opinion

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## EDITORIAL

## Corruption reality check

In the developing world, government corruption is both a symptom and a cause of economic stagnation. Thus, at the World Bank, improving "governance" is a hot concept, and it should be, even if the bank's own health and development projects have sometimes been infected with graft. Unfortunately, lending money for "public sector reform," as the bank calls it, does not always produce results, as a report from the bank's internal Independent Evaluation Group, makes abundantly, even depressingly, clear.

The recently released report cushions its findings in bureaucratese, calling bank anti-corruption efforts "moderately satisfactory." But beyond the executive summary, the sorry details emerge. Between 1990 and 2006, the bank dished out $20 billion for training, advice and other forms of aid, and there has been precious little bang for all those bucks. About a fifth of the money—$4 billion—went to civil service reform. But, the report says, this huge expenditure achieved almost nothing, partly because of resistance by bureaucracies, and partly because, except for downsizing, the bank had no strategy.

With the bank's help, countries did improve their abilities to draft coherent budgets and collect taxes. But when it came to spending the money honestly, the results were much less impressive, as measured by widely accepted surveys of perceived corruption. And what little progress there was took place mostly where it was needed least: in East European and Latin American countries that are no longer poor. Among the poorest countries, the bank's largess reduced corruption very little; indeed, recipients of bank funds performed no better than countries that got none.

The report hints that some governments treat internationally funded anti-corruption efforts as a bit of a show. In one large African country, for example, "the Good Governance Coordination Unit ... and the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau have not done much yet. The national anti-corruption strategy and action plan...seems an ambitious and all-encompassing anti-corruption approach, (but) it lacks serious mechanisms to monitor compliance or to hold implementing agencies accountable."

There was a note of exhaustion in the report's repeated call for greater "realism," given foot-dragging by "political elites" in the developing world. And it is worth asking whether multilateral development agencies really can fight corruption through aid programs negotiated with corrupt governments.

On a more promising note, the report lauds "efforts to increase the citizens' capability to monitor and challenge abuses of the system and to inform the citizens about their rights and entitlements. Breaking the culture of secrecy that pervades the government functioning and empowering people to demand public accountability are important components in such an effort." Sunlight, plus people power, might succeed where international aid has not.

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GAS
GIVE US ALL YOUR MONEY AND VALUABLES AND NOBODY GETS HURT
AT LEAST THEY'VE DROPPED ALL the PRETENSES...
©2008 THE AUGUSTA CHRONICLE 5/24

# Fewer better trained employees means better profits

**By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The increase in the minimum wage went into effect on May 26. It is now $4.05 an hour. All around the island I hear ranting and raving by many business people: "Oh, what shall I do? How can I survive? What is happening to this island?" But wait, let's think through the problem. We may come to the conclusion that we may be better off.

There is a law in economics called the "law of diminishing returns." Simply explained, it states that by adding more and more resources or people to a project does not necessarily make the project more successful or completed faster. In the whole operation there comes a point that by adding more resources or more people will make that project slower and less productive rather than improving it.

Let's use an example such as watering a plant. We realize that a certain amount of water will allow the plant to grow healthy. But if we continue to add more and more water to the plant in the belief that more water will make the plant grow faster and healthier, we will notice that the extra water actually destroys the plant as the soil becomes waterlogged.

How does this "law of diminishing returns" apply to our local nonresident workforce? With the implementation of federalization, we will be seeing many contract workers returning to their countries. This seems to worry many business people. However it is really a situation that if we study carefully, we will discover new opportunities to improving our businesses.

Examine a construction job such as building a house in Hawaii, and compare it to a house being built here. I have noticed in Hawaii and in the mainland that a house is usually built with only a handful of workers. Each of the workers are skilled in their particular trades. The workers use modern tools to do the job. For example, how many carpenters here use skill saws? How many use chipping guns? Does any carpenter use an electric sanding machine? Have any of us seen a pneumatic nailing gun? Have you noticed how sand is sifted? How many have graduated from trades schools? Though the workers are dedicated and hard workers, unfortunately many of the techniques they use are slow and out of date.

Do we really need 20 to 30 workers to build a house? Because of too much manual labor, an army of workers is needed to build a two or three bedroom house. But by using highly skilled workers, we can utilize fewer workers. As a result, the house is built faster and with higher standards. The cost will be lower because of an increase of productivity while the workers' wages will be higher.

In a restaurant do we need all the waiters and waitresses? I have noticed that the more waiters and waitresses in a restaurant, the worse the service is. Again why do restaurants in the mainland use

**By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO**
*Special to the* Saipan Tribune

*Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.*

fewer waiters and fewer kitchen help? Could it be because they are better trained, thereby working more efficiently?

When I lived in Tokyo years ago, salaries were very low. Every department store had about 10 girls behind small counters serving customers. As wages were raised, some of the girls disappeared. But the sales amount stayed the same. I have noticed the same in Honolulu, Los Angeles, and many other cities. When wages are low, many employees are used. But as salaries are raised, fewer employees are used. Yet sales do not drop. Why is this so?

If employees are properly trained and paid decent wages, they are motivated. As a result their work performance is higher and faster. But few of us business owners have taken the time to study this. Instead we have had the luxury of using cheap and plentiful nonresident workers, thinking that it is a blessing. Few of us actually check the standard of performance. When it doesn't match with our expectations, we simply shrug it off and mumble, "Well, what more can we expect from them?"

Now that fewer and fewer of nonresident workers will be available, we must change our attitude on how we use our employees. The time has come to consider hiring and training resident workers. We must motivate them, pay them decent wages, and treat them with respect, making sure they feel needed and appreciated. Frankly speaking, we can do with fewer employees once we accept this fact and work toward improving our employee relationship.

Currently we have about 22,417 registered nonresident workers. How many of them are motivated? How many of them are really skilled? My comments are not directed against nonresident workers. I have many in my companies and respect their hard work and dedication. But times are changing and unless we change with it we will be left behind.

I truly believe that by training and motivating our local labor force, we will experience less and less need for a nonresident work force. We have an ample labor force of local residents. But we must first train them, motivate them, pay decent wages, and then believe in their ability to work.

Currently there are about 8,500 people on the NAP program.

***See FEWER on next page***

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# Highly Qualified Teachers

**By JAIME VERGARA**
*Special to the* Saipan Tribune

*Vergara is a regular contributor to the* Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

HQT is back in the PSS vocabulary of collegial discourse. Word has gotten out that perhaps the hasty application of the salary reduction on those who failed to meet the PRAXIS requirements but still in mid-contract were not only improper, it might actually be illegal! Time to test it in the courts, is it? No need, if reinstatement is an option!

However we broaden the definition of HQT, to PSS it redounds to the basic, fundamental and primary requirement: pass the prescribed PRAXIS test at one's level. Assessment-obsessed technocrats made this a prescription without much explanation or justification for its sole, sore and sorry application, but we all know now that passing PRAXIS does not make a highly qualified teacher!

This then begs the question of what makes an HQT. I say, nothing more than what I would require any other professional, which means, the consciousness and discipline to manage TIME, organize SPACE, define ROLES, and articulate one's operating STORY.

At my school in San Vicente, teachers do their own self-evaluation at the end of the school year before the administrators add their blue pencil. I follow in my mind the four parameters above, and were I an administrator, I would design guiding rubrics and indicators on the same as the platform of administrative dialogue.

At the level of gainful employment, the teacher is, at least, a professional. First, there is a discernible level of intentionality about one's management of events, their sequence and the dramaturgy of chronology. A day's unraveling is not just a blob of unscheduled happenings. There is rationality in a day's flow, and a week's design, a quarter's objectives and the annual goal. There is comprehensiveness in ensuring that standards and benchmarks are considered. Time speaks of process—there is a beginning and an ending, and the intermediate points in between. If we do not manage TIME, then whimsical winds manage us!

Secondly, the unstructured is given form. Timelines are objectified and visually displayed. There is order in the placement of parts, an organization in the coverage of wholes. Space is intentionally organized. Walls deliberately assault one's vision in a way that is pedagogically assistive, and the sound input and output is orchestrated. There is time for verbal discourse and moments of silence. Space fully impacts the five senses in an unmistakable symphony of intentionality. For example, disinfectants on the floor can be neutralized by the scent of flowers and distilled natural scents. Artforms can grace the walls, in addition to the aids for 'riting, reading and 'rithmetic. Table and chair arrangements honors individual students, at the same time, encourages group work, collaboration and cooperation. We overcome SPACE before chaos overwhelms.

Third, the various ROLEs are defined. Mushy emotionalism has dominated classrooms in the last four decades to a point where every teacher is expected to be a friend to the students. I told my class this year that I was not their friend, in the first instance. I was their teacher who, in some role or another, will be someone they will grow up AGAINST. When they did, I was not very popular. The professional teacher identifies the roles s/he plays as part of the context of any unit of time. Behavior-wise, I serve *in loco parentis*; learning-wise, I enable and facilitate self-conscious learning; teaching-wise, I command like a general overseeing many tactical strategies and maneuvers in an education "battle" field; sage-wise, I turn into a monastic abbot who open doors into the internal castles of the imagination and the soul, of poetry and inner vision. Whatever ROLE the teacher plays, it is clearly defined in relationship to and in the awareness of the students.

Lastly, one's STORY is articulated and objectified. Stories are most boldly and effectively communicated in signs and symbols, narratives and songs. The story gives a context on the sense of time being managed; for sixth graders, for example, they are led to recollect their 11-13 year journey so far, before Social Studies encapsulates the evolution of Science, Mathematics and the Language Arts in, at least, 10,000 years of the civilizing process. Songs that establish selfhood and corporateness are sung. Signs are invitatory to a profound and comprehensive journey and are frequently on display. Symbols boldly challenge the imagination and the will to action. Stories are created, they can be uncreated; history is but a series of chosen images on previous decisions, they can be unchosen. The core of the human story is the responsibility to choose. What has previously been decided can also be undecided. Destiny is created, not revealed, and hardly determined. Stories underlie the legacies of our cultures and religions. The images they engender in the mind influence behavior.

To recap, at bottom, I would hold teachers accountable to how they manage their time, organize their space, define their roles and articulate their story. Lesson plans are the most obvious expression of one's designs; there are others.

Teaching, however, like any other profession, is also a passion, a career and a vocation. This is what an individual as a persona adds to the stew. The passion acts from the individual's accumulated experiences that well up as intuition and imagination. Career is enriched with the ongoing dialogue with the broad college of teaching professionals, often demonstrated in association and interrelatedness. This gets the creative juices flowing. Vocation is derived from one's sense of *raison d'être,* often expressed in the poetry of the soul and the metaphors of the spirit.

None of the last three above is subject to contractual compensation. They are what define the uniqueness of the individual teacher, and gives character to the profession. They give form to what is deemed as the pursuit of excellence, or the effervescent ideals of efficiency and efficacy.

Professional development addresses the contractual requirements. Passion, career and vocation give the profession spirit. It is what allows teachers to dig into their own pockets, remain in their classroom after school and report to their classrooms on weekends, write that extra note to Johnny's mom, and do many pluses that are not covered by payroll. We have plenty of highly qualified teachers, but passing PRAXIS is the least of their defining qualities.

This coming school year, let the real HQTs hold themselves accountable to their own standards. This is after all, an Olympic Games year, when athletes are encourage to break their own records. What standards are teachers holding on their own beyond just mere compliance with the requirements of the central office? Might this be the year HQTs translate their professionalism, their passion, career and vocation into real ACTion?

# Open letter to Tinian High School Class of 2008

**By JANET KING**
*Special to the* Saipan Tribune

*Janet King is the assistant public defender at the Public Defender's Office.*

Following the Tinian High School graduation on Friday, May 29, I learned the next day that I was intended to be the keynote speaker. I was not present to make that address, because no one from the high school informed me about it. As a resident of Tinian and a proud member of our small community, I would have made every effort to have been present at such an important and significant event, but I was, at the same time, at another event that was scheduled in advance, a meeting with the president of NMC and the members of the Board of Regents on Saipan.

Graduates, had I been present, this is the message I would have delivered to you.

■ ■ ■ ■

Good evening, family and friends; people of Tinian; and most of all, good evening Class of 2008!

Thank you for choosing me to deliver this message to you. It has been nearly fourteen years since I myself graduated from high school—Notre Dame High School on Guam in 1994. I can still clearly recall the excitement of that day. My sights were set to soaring, as yours are tonight. The possibilities were endless for me, as yours are tonight.

Today is, many of you would consider, the first day of the start of your future. You've set your sights long ago on this day; and you've made it! You have successfully completed the rigorous requirements set out by this fine institution of learning and you are now poised to enter into a competitive, challenging world as high school graduates.

You have a proud legacy on which you can depend. Past graduates of Tinian High School have proven themselves to outshine and overachieve in many ways, academic, artistic, and athletic. I can recall graduates who are in our community, graduates like Joey Patrick San Nicolas is a member of the first graduating class back in 1991. JP graduated from Chaminade in Honolulu after high school, then William Mitchell College of Law in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he obtained his law degree. He has been a practicing attorney here in the Northern Marianas for many years now, and he and his family call Tinian home. I can also recall graduates who are currently in our midst as dedicated teachers: Regina Palacios, Eric San Nicolas, Nathaniel Hofschneider, Anthony Aguon, Patricia Aguon, Elmie Guerrero, Jennifer San Nicolas, to name a few. Each one of them went off to college and after graduating, they all returned home to make a difference. And they do, each day, by imparting knowledge to you so that you can walk off with diplomas. I can also recall the name of a graduate who is one of the CNMI's first graduates of the U.S. Naval Academy, and who is now a U.S. Navy pilot, Adrian Evangelista. And there are those who are in the private sector, such as Hilbert San Nicolas, who works at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. There are others who work for the local government and who enrich our community in that capacity, firefighters, medical technicians, police officers, community workers for the Mayor. The list goes on and on. If these individuals can achieve everything that they have dreamed of achieving, you can, too!

Many of you have accepted the challenge to make the next big leap, from high school students to college students. And many of you have chosen the non-traditional, but no less honorable, route of getting a job and supporting your families while also going to school.

But this fine day, your graduation day, is not just the first day of the future. Rather it is this: Your future is now, not tomorrow. We can be today that which we dream we are tomorrow. It is my great pleasure to offer you with greatest humility what I've come to collect along the way. Springing back 14 years to the day of my graduation when I sat among my fellow high school graduates to this day, I bring to you three things that come to mind:

First, Make today the most important day of your life.

What do you think is the most important thing to a successful future? Intelligence, popularity, perseverance? Yes, and no. It is today. This moment. Right now. Benjamin Franklin once said, "One today is worth a thousand tomorrows; what I am to be, I am now becoming."

Make today the most important thing. It is all you have right now. Do your best in it. Express your best self—your best character, your gifts, your skills and talents, your abilities. Identify the most important things to you today—family, friends, your goals and dreams.

***See OPEN on Page 13***

## FEWER

***From Page 10***

Consider that if almost half of the local people on welfare were to be trained, what an asset would they become. Consider if we also trained females to become skilled employees in various industries, how valuable they will also become.

Consider reducing the unnecessarily large number of government workers and train them to work in the private sector. Consider how much more money will remain in local circulation. The sum total of this is that many people out of jobs will have a job and earn decent wages with pride and dignity instead of relying on food stamps.

A word to employers: Study how we can better train the local workforce. Pay them a better wage. Motivate them. By doing this, we will reap more benefits than anticipated. Neglect this advice and we will rant even louder as our business suffers. By using less nonresident workers and more local workers even by paying a higher wage than the minimum, we can save money on labor costs. If you doubt this, study your costs for hiring and keeping nonresident workers.

Slowly we must wean ourselves of the constant begging from the Federal government for more and more handouts. Frankly speaking, when we accomplish this, we will have grown up as a nation. We must create our own economy. We must all work to be self-sufficient. Once we do that no one can take it away. We will also be able to participate better in the benefits of foreign investors instead of being passive observers.

More cheap foreign labor is not the answer. We could send home at least 40 to 50 percent of our current nonresident workers and replace them with our own local people. While the no-resident workers have done a fantastic job in building our islands, it is time to consider training our local work force. I personally owe them much respect and thanks but times are changing.

We have the ability to help ourselves. Now we must have the will and determination to do so. More doesn't mean better. But fewer skilled workers earning decent wages mean a stronger economy and a better livelihood for all of us. This would solve much of our sagging economy. Fewer better trained employees means better profits!

# The Weather

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲85° ▼76° | ▲86° ▼76° | ▲86° ▼76° | ▲86° ▼75° | ▲86° ▼75° |

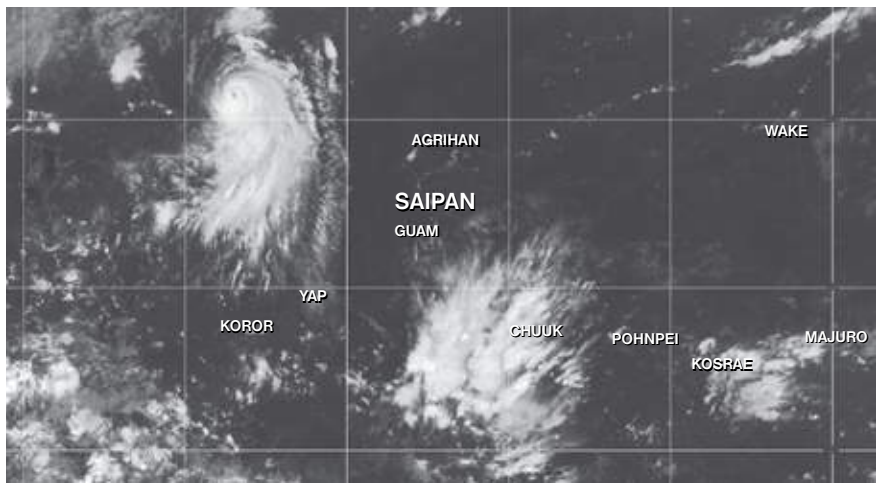
## Micronesia

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Partly Sunny | ▲86 | ▼76 |
| Palau | Mostly Cloudy | ▲86 | ▼77 |
| Yap | Mostly Cloudy | ▲87 | ▼77 |
| Chuuk | Cloudy | ▲88 | ▼79 |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | ▲86 | ▼74 |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | ▲88 | ▼77 |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | ▲83 | ▼73 |

## Around The Globe

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Mostly Sunny | ▲61 | ▼48 |
| Beijing | Cloudy | ▲82 | ▼61 |
| Hong Kong | Thunderstorms | ▲86 | ▼77 |
| Honolulu | Showers | ▲82 | ▼74 |
| London | Cloudy | ▲76 | ▼59 |
| Los Angeles | Cloudy | ▲76 | ▼59 |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | ▲86 | ▼77 |
| Melbourne | Mostly Cloudy | ▲66 | ▼53 |
| Miami | Thundershowers | ▲89 | ▼77 |
| New York | Mostly Sunny | ▲80 | ▼61 |
| Osaka | Rain | ▲74 | ▼61 |
| Paris | Thunderstorms | ▲65 | ▼54 |
| Pusan | Cloudy | ▲72 | ▼62 |
| Rome | Cloudy | ▲79 | ▼61 |
| Salem | Mostly Cloudy | ▲68 | ▼49 |
| San Francisco | Partly Sunny | ▲66 | ▼53 |
| Seoul | Cloudy | ▲73 | ▼59 |
| Tokyo | Rain | ▲71 | ▼61 |
| Washington, DC | Partly Sunny | ▲83 | ▼62 |

## Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2008**
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Nakri (06W) is centered near 21N133E or about 490 miles southeast of Okinawa. Nakri is moving north at 5 mph with maximum sustained winds about 75 mph. Heavy rain and isolated thunderstorms are found near the center between 19N and 22N from 132E to 134E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms extend farther south in an area bounded by a line from 18N131E to 15N133E to 18N136E to 20N136E back to 18N131E. For more information. Refer to JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. A low-level trough reaches northward from typhoon Nakri to 25N132E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are forming near the trough axis just southeast of Minami Chigashi Island within 50 miles of 25N133E. A surface trough stretches northward from EQ150E to 8N152E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring over Chuuk and southwestward to near the equator or south of a line from 9N145E to 8N153E to 3N155E. Low-level convergence associated with a trade-wind surge is producing scattered showers over Majuro but just southeast of Kosrae and south of Kwajalein within 60 miles of a line angling from 2N168E to 5N165E to 9N178E. An upper-level trough heads westward from 18N180 through an upper-level low centered east of Wake Island at 18N177E to 18N160E. Upper-level divergence near and south of the trough axis is triggering scattered showers east of Wake Island between 15N and 20N from 170E to 180.

## Tides

**Saipan Harbor**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5:04AM Today | High Tide: | 2.1 Feet |
| 12:27PM Today | Low Tide: | 0.5 Feet |
| 7:31PM Today | High Tide: | 1.9 Feet |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 5:46AM | 6:44PM |
| Tuesday | 5:46AM | 6:45PM |
| Wednesday | 5:46AM | 6:45PM |
| Thursday | 5:46AM | 6:45PM |
| Friday | 5:46AM | 6:46 PM |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 3:45AM | 5:04PM |
| Tuesday | 4:40AM | 6:13PM |
| Wednesday | 5:43AM | 7:22PM |
| Thursday | 6:50AM | 8:28PM |
| Friday | 7:58AM | 9:26PM |

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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**For pictures:**
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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

### DEPARTURES

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| CO 9313 | 8:30am | 9:05am | 3,4,7 |
| **Saipan-Guam** | | | |
| CO9317 | 4:00am | 4:50am | Daily |
| CO9597 | 8:30am | 9:20am | 1,2,5,6 |
| CO9313 | 8:30am | 10:00am | 3,4,7 via Rota |
| CO9601 | 12:30pm | 1:20pm | Daily |
| CO9603 | 3:30pm | 4:20pm | Daily |
| CO9605 | 6:30pm | 7:20pm | Daily |
| CO9599 | 9:30pm | 10:20pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Narita** | | | |
| NW 078 | 8:55am | 2:00pm | Daily via Nagoya |
| NW 075 | 4:45pm | 7:25pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Osaka** | | | |
| NW 083 | 4:20pm | 7:05pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Nagoya** | | | |
| NW 078 | 8:55am | 11:35am | Daily |
| **Saipan-Manila** | | | |
| CO 895 | 4:45pm | 6:35pm | 6 |
| CO 895 | 6:45pm | 8:35pm | 3 |
| **Saipan-Seoul** | | | |
| OZ 604 | 2:20am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ 604 | 2:50am | 6:30am | 2,3,4,5,6,7 |
| OZ 606 | 3:30pm | 7:00pm | 2,4,6,7 |
| **Saipan-Busan** | | | |
| OZ 608 | 3:50am | 7:20am | 1,4,5,7 |
| **Guam-Manila** | | | |
| CO 891 | 6:00am | 10:30am | 3 via Yap and Koror |
| CO 893 | 6:30am | 8:05am | 6 |
| CO 893 | 8:25am | 10:00am | 2,7 |
| CO 893 | 5:50pm | 9:10pm | 5 via Koror |
| CO 933 | 7:00pm | 8:40pm | Daily |
| PR 111 | 6:00am | 7:45am | 1,2,4,6,7 |
| **Saipan-Guanzhou** | | | |
| CZ 3008 | 5:00am | 8:00am | 2,6 |
| **Guam-Hongkong** | | | |
| CO 909 | 6:40pm | 9:25pm | 1,5 |
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| CO 9598 | 10:15am | 10:45am | 1,2,6 |

### ARRIVALS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| CO 9598 | 11:10am | 11:45am | 1,2,6 |
| **Guam-Saipan** | | | |
| CO 9316 | 2:30am | 3:20am | Daily |
| CO9596 | 7:00am | 7:50am | Daily |
| CO9598 | 10:15am | 11:45am | 1,2,6 via Rota |
| CO9600 | 10:45am | 11:35am | 3,4,5,7 |
| CO9602 | 2:00pm | 2:50pm | Daily |
| CO9604 | 5:00pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| CO9606 | 8:00pm | 8:50pm | Daily |
| **Narita-Saipan** | | | |
| NW 076 | 10:15am | 2:55pm | Daily |
| NW 077 | 6:25pm | 1:30am+1 | Daily via Nagoya |
| **Osaka-Saipan** | | | |
| NW 084 | 10:30am | 3:05pm | Daily |
| **Nagoya-Saipan** | | | |
| NW 077 | 9:00pm | 1:30am+1 | Daily |
| **Manila-Saipan** | | | |
| CO 890 | 9:15am | 2:55pm | 6 |
| CO 890 | 11:45am | 5:35pm | 3 |
| **Seoul-Saipan** | | | |
| OZ 605 | 9:00am | 2:30pm | 2,4,6,7 |
| OZ 603 | 7:40pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 |
| OZ 603 | 8:10pm | 1:40am+1 | 1,2,3,4,5,6 |
| **Busan-Saipan** | | | |
| OZ 607 | 9:30pm | 2:50am+1 | 3,4,6,7 |
| **Manila-Guam** | | | |
| CO 894 | 11:20am | 4:55pm | 2,7 |
| CO 894 | 7:45pm | 1:20am+1 | 6 |
| CO 892 | 9:45pm | 6:30am+1 | 3 via Koror and Yap |
| CO 892 | 10:10pm | 5:30am+1 | 5 via Koror |
| CO 934 | 10:55pm | 4:30am+1 | Daily |
| PR 110 | 10:20pm | 4:00am+1 | 1,3,5,6,7 |
| **Guanzhou-Saipan** | | | |
| CZ 3007 | 8:00pm | 4:00am+1 | 1,5 |
| **Hongkong-Guam** | | | |
| CO 910 | 10:35pm | 5:15am+1 | 1,5 |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| CO 9313 | 9:30am | 10:00am | 3,4,7 |

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:00am | 7:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:50am | 8:20am | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:00am | 9:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:50am | 10:15am | Daily |
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:00pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:50pm | 5:25pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:00pm | 6:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:45pm | 7:15pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Tinian** | | | |
| FRE 101 | 6:45am | 6:55am | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30am | 7:40am | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00am | 8:10am | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40am | 8:50am | Daily |
| FRE 109* | 9:10am | 9:20am | Daily |
| FRE 111* | 10:45am | 10:55am | Daily |

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| FRE 113 | 11:40am | 11:50am | Daily |
| FRE 115 | 1:00pm | 1:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 117 | 2:30pm | 2:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 119 | 4:00pm | 4:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 121 | 4:40pm | 4:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 123 * | 5:40pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 125 * | 6:00pm | 6:10pm | Daily |
| **Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**** | | | |
| FRE 102 | 7:05am | 7:15am | Daily |
| FRE 104 | 7:50am | 8:00am | Daily |
| FRE 106** | 8:20am | 8:30am | Daily |
| FRE 108** | 9:00am | 9:10am | Daily |
| FRE 110 | 10:00am | 10:10am | Daily |
| FRE 112 | 11:05am | 11:15am | Daily |
| FRE 114 | 12:00pm | 12:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 116 | 1:30pm | 1:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 118 | 2:50pm | 3:00pm | Daily |
| FRE 120** | 4:20pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| FRE 122** | 5:00pm | 5:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 124 | 6:05pm | 6:15pm | Daily |
| FRE 126 | 6:20pm | 6:30pm | Daily |

## OPEN

*From Page 11*

People create success in their future by focusing on today. Yesterday is gone, and yet most people can make the mistake of living out their yesterdays and defining themselves by those accomplishments for the rest of their lives. It is much like the old saying, "The older I am, the better I was."

Here is one example from my own life. In 2001, I was honored with the title of Miss Northern Marianas Universe. I carried that title to compete with other Miss Universes from the United States and other countries in Puerto Rico. That time of my life was an amazing time for me. I also saw it as something bigger than just me. I saw it as a chance for the Northern Marianas to promote our greatest resources, the destination, the wonderful people, and the islands' natural beauty (the beauty of the land, the trees and the beaches—not me necessarily, I did not even make top 10!). It is now 2008. Still there are many people who continue to define me by that accomplishment. I am always honored and excited and very proud whenever I meet anyone who appreciates what I did, but no matter what past goals I may have accomplished or awards I may have received they have little impact on what I do today. After 2001, I continued with goals that I had set for myself since I was very young. I left the islands once again for law school, and, after three years, graduated with a law degree in 2006. I am now a practicing attorney at the Office of the Public Defender on Saipan, and an active member of the community.

You can hope for the future, and plan for the future, but remember the old saying, "When opportunity comes, it's too late to prepare." The secret of a successful future is determined by each little act you do daily. To be the best you can be—the best student, the best athlete, the best individual—you have to apply yourself each day to become a little better, and one day, you will become a lot better. All of you have an advantage over the rest of us here. Well, I'll speak for myself. You're smarter and younger! The earlier you start on your path to success, the better. Start small and remember that if your journey is a thousand miles long, start with the step in front of you.

Second, Respect and cherish your family.

When I recall my own graduation, or any graduation that I have ever attended, I remember endless seas of proud faces. Your graduation is no different. The sea of proud faces are made up by your mothers, mothers whose faces are overtaken with emotion; your fathers, fathers whose smiles can't be held back; your siblings and cousins; your aunts and uncles. All of them are glowing with pride.

We are at a time in our faith when families are experiencing difficulties; the tumult of abuse and neglect, separations, divorces threaten to overwhelm us and tear us apart individually and gradually as a community. We sit here today and recognize in our hearts that the true satisfaction in our lives is not in the achievement of things, it is in sharing those successes—and failures—with our families. But strong families are not automatic, they are built each and every day out of mutual love and respect.

When I was in high school, I lived in the convent with nuns. (No, I wasn't going to be a nun, it was my parents' idea. Later, when I announced my decision to go to Wellesley College, an all women's college, my parents were delighted, my father most of all.) While living with the Sisters, they taught me the basic values that make up our individual selves. One important thing these humble servants of God taught me was the importance of loving your family, and having them love and respect you. It was from them that I heard this: It is said that when Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize, she was asked, "What can we do to promote world peace?" Her response? "Go home, and love your family."

Here is another story from my life. In June 2006, one month after I graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Law and Graduate School, my mother collapsed at 7am on the floor of her bathroom at home on Tinian. That was where my father found her. In less than 24 hours I was on Saipan by her side, and thus began my personal journey into what has come to be for me the defining moment in my family's life. That journey brought all of us—my father, my sister, and me—to see what was most important to us. Looking back now it seems so insignificant compared to the big picture, but at the time, I had just graduated from law school; I was studying for the Hawaii bar exam (my first bar exam); and I had a great job from a law firm in Honolulu waiting for me—and I was afraid of losing all those things that I had worked so hard for.

Without hesitation, for the next 15 months I lived with my mother by her bedside in a hospital where she was sent for brain surgery, and never left. I would sleep on a small rollaway bed attached to her hospital bed. That's where I slept, sat and prayed. During that tumultuous time nothing mattered except family. Every family has gone through challenging moments, whether it's financial or medical, or otherwise. Our family was no exception. We have considered this to be one of the most amazingly difficult moments in our lives, but yet we are thankful for still having each other and for knowing enough to appreciate that we are still together. There is a happy ending to this story. Mom, never one to give up, is doing well and receiving physical rehabilitation at a hospital abroad, and is well on her way to recovery. As for me, I have a very fulfilling job as an assistant public defender and enjoy the challenges of criminal defense work. Most of all, this job allows me to see both my parents, who live on Tinian, frequently.

Remember, any positive impact you want to make in your life—as a scientist, doctor, lawyer, athlete, musician—starts at home. The relationships you have with your family—your parents and siblings, and other members of your immediate family—are the most important ones in your life. Guard them fiercely and protect them against the negative influences of society. Graduates, thank them for the contribution they have made positively to your lives and will continue to make; and parents, reaffirm to them the value they have brought to your lives and in your hearts. All of us should never forget to ask ourselves how we can continue to do better to serve, love and protect our families.

Third, be a global citizen.

Earlier I asked you to do things each day to make it the most important day in your life. I'm also going to ask you to do something that is far bigger than yourself.

It would be tremendously easy for one to venture into life with enthusiasm to succeed if that were the only concern one were to have. I challenge you to see yourself as an instrument of change in the world. Do something bigger than yourself. Don't get caught up in the notion that success is limited to the material things you acquire: the big house, the expensive car, the high-paying job. When you hitch your wagon to something that is far bigger than yourself, you will be part of something more important and more satisfying.

Many of you have heard the statement, "We live in a small world." And it is a very small world indeed. You graduates live with amazing technologies that were not available for most of us older folks. You enjoy the capability to have information available upon demand. You can text someone across the room, across the nation, even internationally without effort. You also have a keen awareness of the global climate. Through these technologies you can easily develop relationships with people all around the world. If you want to make a difference, begin with the statement that Mahatma Ghandi is well known for: "Be the Change you want to see in the world."

Graduates, thank you for allowing me to impart this message to you.Congratulations on achieving an important milestone in your lives. Again, thank you and congratulations.

*Editor's Note: The Tinian High School graduation was scheduled for Friday, May 29, 2008 at 5:30pm. Janet King is scheduled to deliver the high school commencement address to the Class of 2008 at Mount Carmel School on June 7, 2008. She assures us that she has been contacted in advance for that event. Janet King can be reached by e-mail at: JanetHanKing@pticom.com.*

**LEGAL NOTICE**
**ATTENTION**

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Department of Justice, gives notice that the property listed below was seized for forfeiture pursuant to Title 21, United States Code (U.S.C.), Section 881, because the property was used or acquired as a result of a violation of the Controlled Substances Act (Title 21, U.S.C., Sections 801 et seq.). An owner or lienor may file a petition for remission or mitigation of the forfeiture with the Forfeiture Counsel, Asset Forfeiture Section, Office of Operations Management, Drug Enforcement Administration, HQs Forfeiture Response, P.O. Box 1475, Quantico, Virginia 22134-1475, pursuant to Title 19, U.S.C., Section 1618, and the regulations governing the petition process set forth in Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 9. Correspondence sent via private delivery must be sent to the Asset Forfeiture Section, Office of Operations Management, Drug Enforcement Administration, 2401 Jefferson Davis Highway, Alexandria, Virginia 22301. In addition to, or in lieu of petitioning for remission or mitigation, a person may contest the forfeiture of the seized property in UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT by filing a claim with the Forfeiture Counsel of the DEA pursuant to Title 18, U.S.C., Section 983(a). Upon the filing of a claim under Title 18, U.S.C., Section 983(a), a claimant may request, pursuant to Section 983(f), release of the seized property during the pendency of the forfeiture proceeding due to hardship. A petition, claim, or other correspondence shall be deemed filed with the Asset Forfeiture Section, when received by the DEA at either of the addresses noted above. Submissions by facsimile or other electronic means will not be accepted. The names of persons or businesses appearing in this notice are not necessarily criminal defendants or suspects, nor does the appearance of their names in this notice necessarily mean that they are the target of DEA investigations or other activities.

**SECOND NOTICE**
**LAST DATE TO FILE JULY 11, 2008**
**PLACE SEIZED, SEIZED FROM, DATE SEIZED**

**DISTRICT OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**
**08-DEA-499344,** $4,596.00 U.S. Currency, Tinian, MP, King, Gui Hua Luo, 04/16/08
**08-DEA-499350,** $1,357.00 U.S. Currency, Tinian, MP, King, Oscar, 04/16/08
**08-DEA-499383,** $595.00 U.S. Currency, Tinian, MP, Li, Xiao Feng, 04/16/08

[The property listed above is NOT for sale. The DEA DOES NOT sell forfeited property and the DEA DOES NOT have information on property for sale.]

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**
**MVA-RFP-08-2293**

For: **SECURITY SERVICES AT SELECTED TOURIST SITES**

Closing Date: **June 27, 2008** Time: **3:00 p.m. (Saipan Time)**

Submit sealed proposals to: The Division of Procurement & Supply
P.O. Box 510008
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the MVA Saipan office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday – Friday) except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

/s/ PERRY JOHN P. TENORIO
Managing Director

PTI
Your connection to the world

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PTI needs full-time operators to help man its 24-hour directory assistance terminals. May eventually assist with routing long distance, international calls and repair service trouble reports using computer-based keyboard, CRT terminal and AS400 computer terminal.

**Must have**

- computer and customer service experience;
- excellent telephone etiquette and English communication skills;
- logical thought process;
- friendly personality

High school diploma is required. U.S. citizenship is also required due to U.S. Homeland Security requirements.

Must be willing to work evening and/or split shifts, if assigned.

**Human Resource Office**
**PTI**
**P. O. Box 500306**
**Saipan, MP 96950**
**670-234-6600**

PTI is an Equal Employment Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Please submit your application to the PTI Human Resource office in Susupe no later than COB June 4, 2008.

## Letters to the Editor

# Impudent tongue

China's most destructive earthquake of modern times struck Wenchuan Sichuan province in China on May 12. This mountainous region was a very beautiful valley, a place where pandas also live. The powerful earthquake toppled thousands of homes, factories and offices, trapping students in schools. The death toll, now 62,000 is likely to go as high as 80,000 or more.

The Chinese government quickly mobilized 50,000 soldiers to help with rescue efforts, and is now faced three main challenges: to prevent epidemics, to provide shelter for five million homeless, and to tackle 35 "quake lakes" formed by landslides blocking rivers.

Many countries are providing humanitarian assistance to help China in its quake relief efforts. Chinese people are touched and express their gratitude to the international community for its sympathy and help.

In China, millions of grassroots volunteers have raced to do what they can for the survivors. Unofficial and unorganized volunteers are pouring into worst hit quake areas to do their bit.

After the quake, overseas Chinese furiously called friends in the homeland and anxiously followed the China quake news on TV or Internet. Many are soliciting money and supplies for the disaster survivors.

In the small Chinese community on Saipan, people sprang into action for fundraising as soon as word of the massive earthquake surfaced. Our newspaper received lots of calls from Chinese guest workers. Most of them want to know how to donate money to aid the disaster victims. Over the phone I could feel their sorrow, nervousness and pain. They said: "We are very worried because we are far away," or " We want know how to donate money," or "I haven't had a job for several months. Twenty dollars is not big money but I want be involved in the relief efforts," or "All the news on TV is in English. I only understand the photos. My co-workers and I rushed to the Internet café to check news in Chinese online. We are worried about our families." Hearing their trembling voices, sometimes they pause, and I can imagine tears running down their faces. I fought back my own tears and, in the momentary emptiness of my mind, asked the silly question, " Are you from Sichuan? Are you Sichuanese?" At the other end of the phone, silence, hesitation for a moment, and the reply of an uncomprehending voice "No. We are from Jiang Su province." I wanted to offer an apology but couldn't find the words. I was wondering if I, or if I will ever, understand our Chinese readers.

Some of garments workers launched campaigns at their factories and donated their hard-earned money. Some Chinese guest workers, after learning that U.S. mainland American Red Cross donated 10 million US dollar for the China quake relief, they went to the local CNMI Red Cross chapter made donations and show their thankfulness.

Understanding that guest workers were anxiously tracking China quake news, our paper placed lots of quake-related developing news for the last three weeks. One of these news articles related how Falun Gong was discouraging donations and saying the earthquake can be attributed to some sort of bad karma for the Chinese government and Chinese people. Actress Sharon Stone recently made similar comments. This provocation aroused anger among the Chinese community around the country, as well as on Saipan.

Falun Gong members on Saipan called our newspaper, threatening to sue our paper for publishing a story condemning Falun Gong campaigns. I brushed off such nonsense by those who do not even dare to provide their names. To Falun Gong, your remarks are inappropriate; your indifference to human life is insensitive; your disrespect for the lost souls is ignorant; your threat of suing is idle; your hearsay comments range from plausible to bizarre and are ridiculous.

My advice is, instead of making a hasty display of your belief, take this natural disaster as tool to spread the karma theory to those earthquake vicitims, perhaps call your family and friends in China to show your care and have compassion.

**Betty Bai**
*Publisher*
*Saipan Chinese News*
*Power Young Publishing*

# 'Overfishing is destabilizing the marine environment'

I hope you will print this letter because I'd like to share with your readers the most disturbing book I've read in years. The book, published in 2007, is *The Unnatural History of the Sea* by Callum Roberts, a professor of marine conservation.

It begins with descriptions of seas so full of fish as to be almost unbelievable—mullet crowding the sides of a boat so thickly that they could be speared without letting go of the spear shaft (at Palmyra, 1798); sea cows (now extinct) at all seasons of the year in great numbers and in herds (the Bering Strait, 1741); runs of salmon, shad and whitefish numbering hundreds of thousands of individuals (in France, 300 AD); salmon and cod so thick by the shore that one could hardly row a boat through them (Newfoundland, 1620); lobsters, some as much as 20 pounds, so plentiful that they were seldom eaten, but were used as bait (New England, 1620s); seas that abound with whales, swordfish, porpoises, killer whales (Gulf of Maine, 1709); otters, beavers, fish so thick with their heads above water (Chesapeake Bay, 1612); sturgeon and shad in such prodigious numbers that within the space of two miles, fishermen caught above six hundred sturgeon with hooks in one day, and more than five thousand shad with a single haul of the net (Chesapeake Bay, 1614); banks of oysters so extensive that they were a hazard to navigation (Carolinas, 1709); turtles gathering in colossal numbers (Caribbean, 1697); a sea so thick with very large turtles that it seemed the ship would run aground on them (Cuba, 1600's); 18-20 foot sharks in great schools (Cocos Island, 1790s)—not just along one coast, but around the world; not just one species but all manner of species; not just one year, but over several centuries. And each and every description is carefully footnoted with its source—a letter, a diary, a journal, documenting when it was written, and by whom. An incredible wealth that, unfortunately, no longer exists, anywhere.

Roberts also describes, in harrowing detail, the lengths to which fishermen, and the fishing industry as a whole, have gone over the past six centuries or so to capture this wealth. Not only has the fishing industry, having fished out nearby shores, been forced to go farther and farther afield to find fish—in early days, seeking new, unexplored areas; in more modern times, seeking out those places where restrictions have not yet been put in place (as is occurring even now)—but it has also had to go deeper and deeper into the ocean, as the marine life closer to the surface has been fished out, to where trawlers now literally scrape miles of ocean bottom of all coral, sea grass, rock formations and anything else that offers protection, a hiding place, to ocean dwellers, in the process sweeping up anything that moves in the search for fish. And the fisheries have had to be satisfied with smaller and smaller fish.

Modern technology adds to the "efficiency" of the fisheries industry in capturing what's left of the oceans living creatures—first with bigger and faster ships, larger and stronger nets, heavier and more efficient equipment, then with over-flying light planes and helicopters to sight distant schools of fish, and now with satellite positioning chips put into logs seeded around the ocean (logs are aggregating devices—fish gather under them for shade, attracting more and larger fish—enough, eventually, to make it a worthy catch). The bycatch—the fish, turtles, dolphins not wanted that are snared by fishnets—only add to the slaughter, says Roberts.

The problem is not confined to the U.S. east coast, where the cod fishery is now dead, nor to the U.S. west coast, where even now a collapse of the salmon fishery is said to be imminent. The problem is worldwide—around every continent, in the middle of every sea, at every depth. Fish and marine mammals are being taken at a rate that cannot keep up with replenishment through natural breeding—not only because of the ruthlessness of the fisheries, but also, in part, because the fish, the turtles, the seals and whales and porpoises are no longer being allowed to grow to maturity and continue to lay eggs and to breed; because the breeding places themselves are being destroyed; and because harvesting is being done during breeding season, when and where fish and marine life are known to aggregate in large numbers.

Says Roberts, "The wholesale removal of marine life and obliteration of their habitat is stripping resilience from ocean ecosystems. Moreover, it is undermining the ability of the oceans to support human needs. Overfishing is destabilizing the marine environment, contributing to the spread of anoxic dead zones and the increasing prevalence of toxic algal blooms, for example. Nature's power to bounce back after catastrophes or absorb the battery of stresses humanity is subjecting it to is being eroded, collapsed fishery after collapsed fishery, species by species, place by place."

Roberts warns: "To recover the world's fisheries we must change the way we think about and manage oceans. For much of the last hundred years, fisheries management has been conducted as an arms race between fishers and regulators. Regulators make laws to restrain fishing; fishers think up ways around them. In most places fishers have kept one step ahead of regulators, and fish populations have fallen. Ultimately, if fishers win the race with regulators their industry will self-destruct. The best that managers can claim in most places is that they are slowing the pace of suicide. **Fisheries will become sustainable only when we set more modest catch targets and fish in ways that have less impact on fish habitats and other marine species"** (emphasis added).

But Roberts does hold out some hope. He does not believe all species would be able to return to their original plenitude, but many could, over time, if changes are made now. He lists seven steps that must be taken:

(1) reduce the amount of fishing—that is, decrease the total number of boats;

(2) keep politicians out of the decision-making process—that is, limits should be set by scientists, not legislators;

(3) replace catch quotas with limits on fishing effort, i.e., limit where, how long and with what gear a vessel can fish;

(4) require fishers to keep what they catch—an incentive to adopt the best fishing practices;

(5) use the best available fishing technology to reduce bycatch;

(6) ban or restrict the most damaging fishing gear—like bottom trawlers; and, most importantly, and

(7) implement extensive networks of marine reserves that are off-limits to fishing.

Roberts believes that 20-40 percent of the ocean should be set aside in reserves (of which the proposed Marianas trench monument would be but a tiny fraction). "Doing this," he writes, "will maximize returns to the fishing industry, provide adequate refuges for vulnerable species, sustain genetic variability in populations, and afford protection to the full spectrum of biodiversity. …This is the degree of scaling up of protection that is necessary to achieve a turnaround in world fisheries."

If our children and our grandchildren are to continue getting food from the sea, that is what is necessary to make sure they can. It is a challenging list—one that must be taken up by every coastal "state" throughout the world if it is to succeed. Unfortunately, it seems to be a low priority on almost everyone's list.

Further information about the book can be found at http://www.york.ac.uk/res/unnatural-history-of-the-sea/index.html.

**Ruth Tighe**
*Tanapag, Saipan*

# Thank you from the Kagman peninsula

The Santa Soledad Parish and the Kagman Komunidat Association want to extend their gratitude to the Department of Public Works and to our Representatives (Rosemond Santos and Ed Salas) for your continuing efforts to help in the community and to improve the quality of life on the Kagman peninsula.

We also want to extend our appreciation to the many other people that were involved in getting the road paved, especially those who actually did the paving. We have tried without success for years to get the road paved leading to the church when we had eight Representatives for the Peninsula. For years the people of Kagman have traveled that old dusty road to church, made a second dusty road across the field to avoid the other dusty road and we have even been forced to breathe the dust during church services. To all those involved, we send our sincere appreciation and our kudos to you for a job well done. On behalf of Santa Soledad Parish and the Kagman Komunidat Association may God bless all of you and your families!

**Ambrose M. Bennett,**
*PIO, Santa Soledad Parish & KKA*

# Thank you

On behalf of the NMITA officers, I wish to thank Duty Free Shopperd Ltd. for their unprecedented support to the just concluded 27th DFS Micronesian Tennis Championships. I am also equally grateful to Pacific Island Club for the use of their courts and water park facility. And lastly, my heartfelt thanks to the many participants and volunteers who came from different directions to help make the championships a huge success.

**Eli Buenaventura**
*President*
*NMITA*

# Island Snapshots

**BARTENDING TILT** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants during the Bartenders Cocktail Competition "Malibu Coconut Rum challenge."

**DARE GRADUATES** JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Drug Abuse Resistance Education program graduates from Hopwood Junior High School cheer for their fellow student during Friday's D.A.R.E graduation ceremony at the HJHS campus.

**CONGRATULATIONS** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Frank A. Demapan on obtaining your master's degree on May 24, 2008. We love you! Greetings come from your wife Carol and son Christian.

**GTC CULTURAL DAY** JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A student wears an Eagle costume for a scene from the "Eagle Series Book Collection" by Georgia Perez during the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School's Cultural & Health Festival Saturday at the school ground in San Roque.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of Thai community display their traditional attire as they participate in the cultural fashion show during the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School's Cultural & Health Festival Saturday at the school grounds in San Roque.

**CONGRATULATIONS!** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mark Daniel Versoza, fourth grade student at Grace Christian Academy, shows off his trophies and medal during the Awards Day held on May 27, 2008. Among of the awards that he received are Consistent Honor Roll, Barnabas-Encourages award, 3rd place Science Bowl, and Perfect Attendance for SY 2007-2008.

Children enjoy their afternoon jumping inside the inflatable bounce house during the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School's Cultural & Health Festival Saturday at the school grounds in San Roque.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

**MENTAL HEALTH FAIR**

A woman checks out the informational flyers displayed during the Mental Health Fair at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion Friday. The event culminated the whole month activity of Mental Health Awareness Month.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

**NEW GRADUATE**

Congratulations to Katrina S. Punzalan on your graduation. Punzalan graduated elementary at Grace Christian Academy on May 28, 2008. "You did a good job. We love you." From Nanay Zeny, Daddy, Mommy and your sister Kaitlyn.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**LIBERATION MONTH** JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela poses with 2008 Liberation Day Queen candidates Haoting Zhang Romolor, 18; Carley V. Laniyo, 16; and Kaylynn Angelynn L. Sablan, 16, shortly after signing the proclamation declaring the month of June as Liberation Month at the Saipan Mayor's Office in San Antonio Friday morning. Also in photo are Piding Tenorio, George Camacho, Manny Tenorio and Pete Lucas.

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela signs the proclamation declaring the month of June as Liberation Month at the Saipan Mayor's Office in San Antonio Friday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

# Business

## High gas prices affect consumers worldwide

By ANGELA CHARLTON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**PARIS** (AP)—Feeling woozy about the fortune you've just pumped into your gas tank? Drivers around the world share the sensation.

Consumers, gas retailers and governments are wrestling with a new energy order, where rising oil prices play a larger role than ever in the daily lives of increasingly mobile people. But as the cost of crude mounts, the effect on the price at the pump varies startlingly—from Venezuela, where gas is cheaper than water, to Turkey, where a full tank can cost more than a domestic plane ticket.

AP

A gasoline tanker truck fills up with gas at a distribution center in Brisbane, Calif., Friday, May 30, 2008.

Taxes and subsidies are the main reasons for the differences, along with lesser factors such as limited oil refining capacity and hard-to-reach geography that push up prices.

"I don't know why it is but... it hurts," says Marie Penucci, a violinist filling up her Volkswagen at an Esso station on the bypass that rings Paris.

As she pumped gas worth $9.66 a gallon she looked wistfully at a commuter climbing onto one of the city's cheap rent-a-bikes, an option not open to her since she travels long distances to perform.

High taxes in Europe and Japan have long accustomed consumers to staggering pump prices, which now are testing new pain thresholds—and it could have been even worse, if a strong euro hadn't cushioned some of the blow. As a result, plenty of European adults never even bother to learn to drive, preferring cheap mass transit to cumbersome cars.

Subsidies in emerging economies such as China and India, meanwhile, shield consumers but hurt governments, which must find a way to afford rising market prices for oil.

## APAFS to host 2nd investment education conference in Yap

**GUAM**—The Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies will sponsor an Institutional Funds Management Conference in Yap on June 4, from 8:30am to 5pm at Traders Ridge.

The conference boasts presentations from recognized experts on the latest trends and best practices affecting institutional funds today. In addition, public officials and business executives will have the opportunity to interact with these experts to better familiarize themselves with issues surrounding institutional fund management.

The conference is the second in a series of mini-conferences to be held throughout the year by APAFS.

The first event was held in Palau on April 22, boasting over 50 participants who received a certificate of completion at the end of the program.

The objective of the organization is to provide educational programs for members in the jurisdictions of Palau, Guam, CNMI, FSM and Marshall Islands, expanding to other areas as opportunities arise. These mini-conferences are one of the primary goals of the association, to hold topic-specific conferences as requested by members in their jurisdiction.

APAFS is currently in the planning stages for Majuro, Pohnpei, Guam and Saipan, culminating in the 8th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference to be held in Manila on Oct. 9 and 10 at the Renaissance Hotel, Makati.

The morning session with deal with "How to Deal with Market Volatility" while the afternoon session will cover "The Prudent Investment Process for Institutional Investors". Light breakfast will be served to start, as well as lunch. All participants will receive certificates of completion.

Instructors include Jason Miyashita, AIF, who will address the recent capital markets volatility and the prudent process, while Mark J. Heath, CFA, will cover the "Capital Markets Outlook" as well as the "Current State of APAFS" in his capacity as Deputy Executive Director of the association. Plans for the 8th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference in Manila will be presented as well.

The conference will wrap up with a VIP Cocktail reception. The association expects over 50 representatives from both the government and private sectors.

Jason Miyashita will be in Yap on June 4 through June 6 for pre- and post-conference meetings/interviews. Interested parties may contact Jason in advance at executivedirector@apafs.org.

For more information about APAFS and the 8th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference, you may directly access their website at www.apafs.org. ***(PR)***

## United-US Airways merger called off

**CHICAGO** (AP)—United Airlines scrapped its latest attempt to combine with US Airways and create the world's largest carrier, formally backing away Friday from a deal that likely would have meant fewer routes and higher ticket prices for consumers.

Now the question for those and other U.S. airlines is how to get by and make money with oil prices near $130 a barrel.

The CEOs of the two airlines told their employees in separate messages that a combination was off "for now," although US Airways' Doug Parker indicated it is unlikely for at least the rest of this year. They had spent months exploring a deal that would have enabled the carriers to shed costs - likely paring employees, trimming overlapping operations in Washington, D.C., and parts of the West and eliminating competing flights.

But the attempt was hamstrung by tightening credit markets and the airlines' dimming financial outlook, which has dried up cash and made them less attractive to the banks that would have to provide capital.

# Nation

AP

**LIFTOFF**

Space Shuttle Discovery lifts off from pad 39A at the Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral, Fla. Saturday, May 31, 2008. Discovery and a crew of seven blasted into orbit Saturday, carrying a giant Japanese lab addition to the international space station along with something more mundane—a toilet pump. Discovery roared into a brilliantly blue sky dotted with a few clouds at 5:02 p.m., right on time.

## Tornado tears up homes in Indianapolis

**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)—Residents cleaned up Saturday after a tornado plowed a trail of destruction through the east side of Indianapolis, but they gave thanks that nobody was killed and that the only injuries were minor.

The storm blew through late Friday, ripping roofs off several apartment buildings, snapping trees and toppling power lines. Eighteen people were treated for "very minor" injuries, said John Ball, the area's emergency management director.

"It is a miracle that we didn't have serious injuries or death," he said. "A gentleman told me last night at the shelter that he was lying in bed and heard a rumble, and the roof was gone and he saw the sky."

Winds snapped trees, wrapped metal sheeting around a telephone pole and left a four-block-wide trail of debris about a mile long. Gas station pumps were knocked over, roof shingles shredded, and power lines and tree branches scattered.

## Obama quits Chicago church

**ABERDEEN, S.D.** (AP)—Barack Obama said Saturday he has resigned his 20-year membership in the Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago "with some sadness" in the aftermath of inflammatory remarks by his longtime pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, and more recent fiery remarks at the church by a visiting priest.

"This is not a decision I come to lightly ... and it is one I make with some sadness," Obama said at a news conference after campaign officials released a letter of resignation he sent to the church on Friday.

"I'm not denouncing the church and I'm not interested in people who want me to denounce the church," he said, adding that the new pastor at Trinity and "the church have been suffering from the attention my campaign has focused on them."

## Texas agency under magnifying glass over polygamist sect raid

**SAN ANGELO, Texas** (AP)—For nearly two months, Texas child welfare officials had insisted conditions at a polygamist group's ranch were so abusive that none of its members should be allowed to keep their children.

Now, however, one of the largest custody cases in U.S. history is unraveling, and some are looking for what went wrong when the state raided the Yearning For Zion Ranch and removed more than 400 children.

Since the state Supreme Court ruled that the Texas Department of Child Protective Services overreached when it swept the children into foster care, agency officials have been unwilling to discuss the case, their strategy or what went wrong.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Florida, Michigan delegates will get half-votes

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Democratic Party leaders agreed Saturday to seat Michigan and Florida delegates with half-votes at this summer's convention with a compromise that left Barack Obama on the verge of the nomination but riled Hillary Rodham Clinton backers who threatened to fight to the August convention. "Hijacking four delegates is not a good way to start down the path of party unity," said adviser Harold Ickes. Clinton's camp maintains she was entitled to four additional Michigan delegates. The decision by the party's Rules Committee raised slightly the total delegates Obama needs to clinch the nomination. Clinton advisers conceded privately he will likely hit the magic number after the final primaries are held Tuesday night, but said the ruling threatened to dash any hopes of a unified party.

#### Bush mulls making Pearl Harbor a national monument

**HONOLULU** (AP)—President Bush has asked his defense and interior secretaries to look into designating Pearl Harbor and other historic World War II sites in the Pacific a national monument. A May 29 presidential memo to Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne said such status could offer the sites additional protection. "These objects of historical and scientific interest may tell the broader story of the war, the sacrifices made by America and its allies, and the heroism and determination that laid the groundwork for victory in the Pacific and triumph in World War II," Bush said. Parts of the naval base are already under some form of protection or have historic designation.

#### Dead cheerleader's family awarded nearly $700K

**WAILUKU, Hawaii** (AP)—The chaperone of a teenage cheerleader who fell to her death from a hotel balcony in Hawaii while drunk has been ordered to pay nearly $700,000. Arbitrator Gerald Sekiya says in his decision May 23 that Susanne Sadler must pay the family and estate of 18-year-old Lauren Crossan. The cheerleader from New Jersey died in 2004 while she was in Hawaii to perform for the Hula Bowl. She had a blood-alcohol level more than twice the state's legal limit for driving. An attorney for Sadler declined to comment.

# Asia

AP

In this photo distributed by the official Chinese news agency, Xinhua, the major project of a sluice from the Tangjiashan Lake is completed at quake-induced Tangjiashan Lake in southwest China's Sichuan province, on Saturday May 31, 2008.

## China to drain swelling lake

**MIANYANG, China** (AP)—Chinese authorities prepared on Saturday to drain a swelling lake formed by a devastating earthquake, completing work on a drainage channel to divert water that threatens hundreds of thousands downstream.

Officials are expected to discharge flood water from the lake into the channel between Sunday and Tuesday, the official Xinhua News Agency reported, quoting Yue Xi, deputy chief of the water and electricity section of the People's Armed Police.

The lake, called Tangjiashan, formed above Beichuan town in the Mianyang region of Sichuan province when a hillside plunged into a river valley during the May 12 quake.

■ ■ ■

**BEIJING** (AP)—China's official news agency says a military transport helicopter carrying people injured in the country's earthquake disaster has crashed.

The report Sunday from the Xinhua News Agency gives no word on any survivors.

It says the helicopter crashed Saturday afternoon in fog and strong turbulence. The aircraft was carrying a crew of four and 10 people injured in the quake.

■ ■ ■

Xinhua says a search and rescue operation is under way.

Chinese authorities had evacuated nearly 200,000 people by early Saturday and warned more than 1 million others to be ready to leave quickly if the lake floods.

Meanwhile, a military transport helicopter carrying 10 people injured in the quake and four crew members crashed Saturday in Sichuan province in fog and strong turbulence, Xinhua said.

There was no immediate word on survivors. A search-and-rescue mission was under way, the news agency said Sunday.

The confirmed death toll from China's worst quake in three decades was raised Saturday to 68,977, an increase of about 120 people from a day earlier. Another 17,974 people were still missing, the State Council, or Cabinet, said. The daily increase was the smallest since the government started announcing death tolls shortly after the quake hit.

## Aid workers still waiting to enter Myanmar's delta

**BANGKOK, Thailand** (AP)—Myanmar needs more than food and shelter. It needs human expertise for everything from cleaning water to mental health counseling—and right now, those experts can't get to the hard-hit delta.

Dozens of aid workers from UNICEF, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and other groups are still stuck in Yangon, the nation's largest city, without the required travel permits to leave for the delta region.

These workers include Red Cross water quality engineers, for example, to train their local counterparts to run major drinking water treatment plants.

"The priority is drinking water," UNICEF spokeswoman Shantha Bloemen said Friday.

For the first several weeks after Cyclone Nargis struck May 2-3, few of the more than 2 million survivors received any help. Myanmar's government only has about 15 transport planes that cannot carry tons of food and up to 40 aging helicopters, many not working, experts say.

Foreign aid agencies are now trying to get in not just trucks and helicopters, but also workers with experience from dealing with disasters like the 2004 Asian tsunami and the 2005 Pakistani earthquake.

## Major earthquake hits RP's Batanes island

**TAIPEI, Taiwan** (AP)—A powerful earthquake struck in the Pacific Ocean off southeastern Taiwan on Sunday, but no damage or injuries were reported.

Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau said the magnitude 6.8 quake hit at around 9:57 a.m. (0157 GMT). It was faintly felt in Taiwan.

The bureau said the epicenter was located in the Pacific Ocean about 340 miles (560 kilometers) southeast of Taiwan's capital of Taipei, near the Bashi Channel that separates Taiwan and the Philippines.

The epicenter was as deep as 29 miles (46 kilometers) below the ocean surface.

In Manila, Renato Solidum Jr., head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, gave the quake magnitude at 6.3.

He said the tremor was felt in the Philippines' northernmost province of Batanes but was too deep to cause any major damage or casualties.

No tsunami warning was issued because of the depth of the quake, and seismologists are still determining which fault line caused the temblor, he said.

Earthquakes frequently rattle Taiwan, but most are minor and cause little or no damage.

However, a 7.6-magnitude earthquake in central Taiwan in September 1999 killed more than 2,300 people, and in December 2006 a 6.7-magnitude offshore tremor south of the city of Kaohsiung severed two undersea cables and disrupted telephone and Internet service to millions of users throughout Asia

# World

## Iraq bomber kills at least 10

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—A suicide bomber blew himself up at a police checkpoint west of Baghdad on Saturday, killing at least 10 people including the local police chief, an official said.

Fearing more attacks, authorities imposed a vehicle ban and closed all entrances to the targeted town of Hit.

The attacker detonated his explosives belt after approaching the checkpoint, which was near a bridge, at about 9 p.m., said the town's administrator, Hikmat Jubeir.

Jubeir said six policemen were among those killed, including the town's police chief Col. Khalil Ibrahim. Four civilians also were killed and 12 other people were wounded, he said.

■ ■ ■

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—The U.S. military says one of its helicopters has crashed south of Baghdad, wounding two American soldiers.

The statement says preliminary indications point to mechanical failure as the cause of the crash early Sunday, but an investigation will be conducted to determine what happened.

No further details were released.

## Tropical storm Arthur hits Yucatan

**AMBERGIS CAYE, Belize** (AP)—A weak tropical storm formed Saturday off the Yucatan Peninsula and quickly made landfall at the Belize-Mexico border, dumping rain and kicking up surf.

The first named storm of the 2008 Atlantic Hurricane Season, Arthur was moving west across the Yucatan with maximum sustained winds near 40 mph (65 kph), according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

The storm formed one day before the official start of the season June 1, hitting land near the Mexican port city of Chetumal and Belize's Corozal city. It dumped rain as far south as Belize City and kicked up strong surf on the popular tourist island of Ambergis Caye.

Tropical storm warnings were issued for Belize and Mexico's Caribbean coastline.

The hurricane center said Arthur could dump five to 10 inches (125 to 250 millimeters) of rain over portions of Belize and Guatemala, and up to 15 inches (380 millimeters) in southeastern Mexico. It warned the rains could cause

**NEW ERUPTION** AP

A column of smoke and ash rises from the Chaiten volcano, in Chaiten, Chile, Saturday, May 31, 2008. The volcano entered in a new stage of activity as it began erupting lava, according to official reports. The volcano began erupting on May 2, spewing vast columns of ash and gas that spread across South America from the Pacific to the Atlantic and beyond.

## Macedonians vote in crucial election

**SKOPJE, Macedonia** (AP)—Macedonians voted Sunday in early parliamentary elections that could prove crucial to the Balkan country's aspirations of joining NATO and the European Union.

Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski's center-right VMRO-DPMNE party was heavily favored to win. The 37-year-old prime minister hopes to win a majority of the parliament's 120 seats, enabling him to form a government without having to resort to a coalition.

The new government will face a formidable task. It must conclude protracted and bitter negotiations with Greece over Macedonia's name - a dispute that led to the country being blocked from joining NATO in April. It also must ensure a date is set for the start of EU negotiations and calm tensions within Macedonia's volatile ethnic Albanian minority.

## WORLD BRIEFS

### 3 injured in bombing in Spain's Basque country

**MADRID, Spain** (AP)—A bomb has exploded in the northern port city of Zarautz, slightly injuring three people. The Interior Ministry says a road assistance service got an anonymous call saying a bomb would explode outside a construction company in the city in Basque country. Police were inspecting the area near the company's offices when the bomb went off about 2:30 a.m. Sunday. One person was cut slightly, and two others were treated for minor ear damage. The explosion follows the May 21 arrest in Bordeaux, France, of three suspected ringleaders of the violent separatist Basque group ETA. It was not immediately clear if the bombing was related to the arrest.

### South Africa death toll reaches 62

**JOHANNESBURG, South Africa** (AP)—Police say the death toll from attacks on foreigners across South Africa over the past three weeks has risen to 62. National police spokeswoman Sally de Beer also says that 670 people were injured. The previous death toll was 56, but some of the injured have died in hospitals. The increase was announced Saturday. Relative calm has returned, but tens of thousands of foreigners are still displaced and too scared to return to the communities that chased them out. Zimbabwean authorities had promised to take home 1,000 Zimbabweans on Saturday but this did not happen.

# Health & Fitness

# Bone drug helps fight breast cancer spread

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

NOVARTIS
ZOMETA 4 mg
Powder and solvent for solution for infusion/
Poudre et solvant pour solution pour perfusion/
Polvo y disolvente para solución para perfusión
Zoledronic acid
New Zealand: PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE
Zometa 4 mg
Zometa

**CHICAGO** (AP)—A drug to prevent bone loss during breast cancer treatment also substantially cut the risk that the cancer would return, results that left doctors excited about a possible new way to fight the disease.

It is the first large study to affirm wider anti-cancer hopes for Zometa and other bone-building drugs called bisphosphonates. Zometa, made by Novartis AG, is used now for cancers that have already spread to the bone.

The new study involved 1,800 premenopausal women taking hormone treatments for early-stage breast cancer. Zometa cut by one-third the chances that cancer would recur—in their bones or anywhere else.

"This is an important finding. It may well change practice," said Dr. Claudine Isaacs, director of the clinical breast cancer program at Georgetown University's Lombardi Cancer Center.

About three-fourths of breast cancers occur in women after menopause. Zometa may help them, too, but it hasn't been tested yet in that age group.

The study was led by Dr. Michael Gnant of the Medical University of Vienna and reported Saturday at an American Society of Clinical Oncology conference in Chicago.

If a second, ongoing study also finds a benefit, doctors predict that Zometa will quickly be tested against other cancers that tend to spread, or metastasize, to bones, such as prostate and kidney cancer.

"Hugely important is whether this has to do with the fact that it just makes the bone hostile, somehow, to metastasis or if there is a more global anti-metastasis effect," said the oncology group's president, Dr. Nancy Davidson of Johns Hopkins University.

"Either of those would be good and would teach us a lot about what to do next."

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women. About 184,450 cases and 40,930 deaths from the disease are expected in the United States this year.

Standard treatments are surgery, chemotherapy, radiation and hormone-blocking drugs if the tumors are like those in the study—helped to grow by estrogen or progesterone.

The hormone-blockers often weaken bones, so bisphosphonates like the osteoporosis pill Fosamax have become increasingly popular to treat this side effect. However, using them to treat the cancer itself is a very different approach.

Lab studies hinted it would work, and Gnant's is the first to test it in a large group of breast cancer patients.

All had surgery to remove their tumors and were taking hormone-blocking drugs—goserelin plus either tamoxifen or anastrozole—treatments that made them menopausal. Half also were given infusions of Zometa once every six months.

The women were treated for three years and studied for two more. By then, only 6 percent of those given Zometa had suffered a relapse or died, compared to 9 percent of the others. That translated to a 36 percent decline in risk.

Sixteen women given Zometa died versus 26 of the others—a difference that could have occurred by chance alone but an encouraging trend that doctors hope will mean better survival as the groups are followed for a longer time.

There were no big differences in serious side effects, though minor ones like fever and bone and joint pain were more common among women given Zometa. Two percent of all study participants developed a rapid heartbeat, but only three were hospitalized—two on Zometa and one of the others.

The study was sponsored by Zometa's maker, Swiss-based Novartis, and British-based AstraZeneca PLC, which makes Arimidex, the brand name of anastrozole. Gnant consults for the companies and several other breast cancer drugmakers.

With doctor fees for the infusion, a Zometa treatment can run more than $1,200. The other large study is testing it in 3,360 pre- and postmenopausal women with cancer that has spread but not extensively.

Experts stressed that the results so far are only in women who were made menopausal by hormone-blocking treatments—not women who develop breast cancer after natural menopause.

For now, using Zometa to prevent breast cancer recurrence should be confined to those who develop breast cancer before menopause, said Dr. Eric Winer of Dana-Farber Cancer Center in Boston.

"This is a treatment that doctors should talk to a patient about" because of these encouraging new results, Winer said.

In other news at the conference, women with advanced breast cancers who were given Avastin plus Taxotere were a little less likely to have their cancers progress than women given Taxotere alone. However, side effects including high blood pressure were more common for those taking both drugs. Taxotere treatment is more common in Europe and Asia; in the United States, doctors are more likely to use Taxol.

In the study of 736 women, 44 percent of those given just Taxotere had their tumors shrink versus 55 percent of those also given a lower dose of Avastin and 63 percent of those given a higher dose.

## ON THE NET

Cancer conference: http://www.asco.org
Patient information: http://www.cancer.net
American Cancer Society: http://www.cancer.org
National Cancer Institute: http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/types/lung

# A greenish tint to office health

By MELISSA HEALY
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Office plants might be a way to stem worker discontent.

In an article published in a recent issue of Horticultural Science, researchers at Texas State University in San Marcos found that workers who had at least one plant in their offices rated themselves as happier in their work and more satisfied with life in general than those without a plant. Those working alongside greenery were happier even than workers who had a window but no greenery.

Happiest of all were those with windows and greenery. But remarkably, even these lucky few were not significantly more content in their work than the windowless who enjoyed the company of plants.

The findings, which controlled for factors such as income, education level and job position, come from an Internet-based survey of 450 office workers in Texas, Kansas and Missouri. They follow research that suggests that indoor plants help purify the air, provide a calming visual cue for the troubled and create a link to humans' evolutionary past.

Office plants might be a way to stem worker discontent.

"It is more important to have a plant than a window," says Tina Marie Waliczek Cade, author of the study and the happy steward of a variegated philodendron and ivy geranium in her office at Texas State University's Agriculture Department. "It was pleasantly surprising for a horticulturist."

## FROM START TO FITNESS

# Big belly carries big health risk

By ANDREA RENEE WYATT, M.S.S., C.S.C.S.
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

**Q. My husband has a large stomach but really skinny arms and legs. Since the only area of his body that is large is his stomach, he doesn't think he really has to exercise. He tells me all he would have to do is a few sit-ups and his stomach would go down. I disagree with him, and I think that his large stomach is a health risk and that he should exercise each day. What are the facts about my husband's big belly?**

**A:** Excessive fat around the abdominal area—the spare tire, love handles, beer belly or whatever you call it—is the focus of many fitness conversations.

The heath risk in men and women of excessive body fat around the abdominal can range from diabetes, high blood pressure, metabolic syndrome and insulin resistance to a change in cholesterol levels and sleep apnea. These conditions can be serious, making it important to keep abdominal fat within a healthy range.

It is important to remember that although you might see your abdominals as the "only" problem you have, therefore not needing to exercise other body parts, an excessive amount of body fat in the abdominal region is a threat to the vital organs in that area.

A circumference measured at the waist of not more than 35 inches in women and 40 inches in men are the parameters you want to stay within. If you find yourself close to or over these numbers, you can lower your abdominal body fat with the same methods used to lower overall body fat: exercise and proper nutrition.

Unfortunately, your husband cannot crunch or sit-up his way to lowering his belly fat. Although abdominal exercises will help to strength the muscles in this area and might help burn a few extra calories while exercising, these exercises alone will NOT reduce abdominal fat. An exercise program that includes strength training for all muscle groups in addition to a cardiovascular program that increases the heart rate for at least 40 minutes each day can help to reverse this problem.

Taking care of your overall health is important, with no one body part more important than another. Encourage your husband to begin exercising and eating properly to keep the rest of his body strong and lower his risk from the unhealthy conditions initiated by excessive abdominal fat.

*Always consult a physician before beginning an exercise program. Andrea Renee Wyatt, M.S.S., C.S.C.S., is a personal trainer with an extensive background in strength and conditioning as well as therapeutic recreation. If you have a fitness or training question, write to Andrea in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.*

# Life & Style

Lynn Knight, chairwoman of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, is joined by MVA chair Jerry Tan, Judge and HANMI founding member David Wiseman, and hotel managers in expressing appreciation for von Siebenthal's contributions to the local hotel industry over the past six and a half years.

# Hyatt welcomes new GM to the islands

**Text and Photos by AGNES E. DONATO**
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hyatt Regency Saipan threw a classy party Friday evening to say goodbye to Michael von Siebenthal, the hotel's general manager for almost seven years, and hello to the man who is taking over from him, Nick K. Nishikawa.

The two are switching posts. Von Siebenthal is assuming Nishikawa's 12-year role as general manager of the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Fukuoka, Japan.

Local tourism industry players, business leaders, politicians, and other dignitaries were in attendance for the memorable event held in the Hyatt gardens. Only the finest food and wine were served, while a live jazz band provided soothing entertainment.

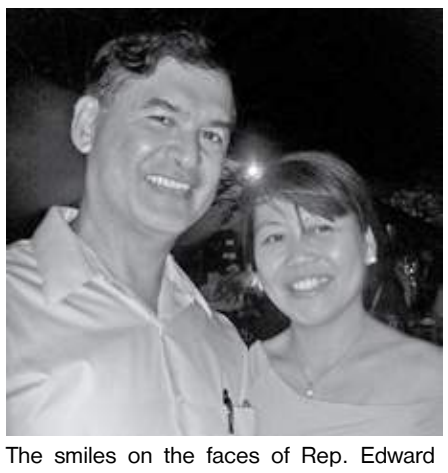
Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Jerry Tan and MVA managing director Perry Tenorio present a certificate of recognition to von Siebenthal.

Rep. Rosemond Santos, Rep. Diego T. Benavente and wife Vicky, and Make-A-Wish Foundation executive director Victor Camacho enjoy the exquisite food and wine at the party.

U.S. District Court Judge Alex Munson and incoming Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa exchange calling cards, as Mrs. Munson and Mrs. Nishikawa exchange pleasantries at the party. Outgoing Hyatt GM Michael von Siebenthal helped Nishikawa in greeting guests.

Victor Camacho and Vicky Benavente express their gratitude to von Siebanthal for supporting the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Hitoshi Nakaushi, president of Kobe Portopia Hotel, the Japanese company that owns Hyatt Regency Saipan, wishes luck to both von Siebenthal and Nishikawa on their new assignments.



The smiles on the faces of Rep. Edward Salas and *Saipan Tribune* accountant Sol Dayao mirror the fun that was had by everyone at the party.

Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino GM Tom Liu gives Nishikawa a hug in greeting.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes and his wife, Legislative Bureau deputy director Glenna SP Reyes, take part in the gathering.

Rep. Edward Salas poses with von Siebenthal and Nishikawa, shortly after presenting the House of Representatives' resolution praising von Siebenthal for his work at the Hyatt Regency Saipan and his active involvement in the community during his stay on island.

# Brangelina buzz sweeps south of France

**CORRENS, France** (AP)—Brangelina must be cocooning. The paparazzi swarming France's Cote d'Azur can't find Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie. Locals mutter or giggle about the invasion of Hollywood glam. A flyover of their new home in a luxurious villa turned up no clues about a report they've added a set of twins - which Pitt's manager says is "not true."

This pastoral sliver of the south of France has been abuzz ever since reports emerged last week that the Brangelina clan was moving in—confirmed by the mayor of the village in question, Correns.

A helicopter swing Saturday over the vast yet reclusive Chateau Miraval, where the couple and their four children are said to be settling, turned up only stepped vineyards, empty chairs at a table on a pockmarked stone patio and a helicopter parked on a finely groomed lawn in front of a farmhouse and accompanying buildings.

A handful of parked cars and two men were seen from up above—one planted next to the chopper, another peering skyward through binoculars from an estate driveway. Other than that, there was no sign of human life outdoors or in. Several shutters were pulled on the main stone house.

The apparent calm did not stop the buzz.

"Entertainment Tonight" first reported on its Web site Friday that the actress had given birth in France. Show host Mary Hart cited an unidentified source who claimed to be in the delivery room, saying the twins were born and that "yes, mother and babies are fine."

Pitt's manager, Cynthia Pett-Dante, told The Associated Press: "We have no comment except the story is not true," and several celebrity news outlets also reported the story was false.

Despite the denial, the Web site of Britain's Now magazine on Saturday cited "sources in France" saying Jolie's doctor had flown in from California, and that the couple named the twin girls Isla Marcheline and Amelie Jane Jolie-Pitt.

With no concrete proof, reporters and photographers staked out the entrance to the estate, nestled between rolling, wooded hills on the fringe of Correns, population 800, and invisible from any public roadway.

AP

View of the Miraval property in Correns, near Brignoles, southern France, Saturday, May 31, 2008.

Jolie has said previously that her twins are due in August. She and Pitt already have four children: 6-year-old Maddox, 4-year-old Pax and 3-year-old Zahara, who are adopted, and 2-year-old Shiloh.

Hospital officials in maternity clinics and hospitals in the region said they weren't aware that Jolie had come in—and would not say if she were scheduled. France strictly respects privacy rules governing health matters.

On Saturday, shopkeepers in the nearby town of Brignoles murmured about a sighting last week of the family strolling through town and stopping at a women's clothing boutique—before the media hordes breezed in.

Some locals were blase about the incoming stars.

"She's a woman like any other," a Correns villager who gave his name only as Leon told Associated Press Television News, referring to Jolie. "I've never ever seen her. You know, as far as pretty women go, there are others on Earth."

Others were tickled about the new neighbors.

"My son is delighted that Angelina Jolie is here," said Nadia Caetano, of her 16-year-old. "He said, 'I'm going to be an orphan, and she'll adopt me. Mom, say that you've abandoned me, and she'll adopt me.'"

Traditionally, the region has lured tourists mostly for rock-climbing excursions on the rolling hills of the verdant region and leisurely strolls in its medieval villages.

Security guards and local gendarmes were blocking the gates to the estate Saturday, where only a trickle of vehicles were allowed in.

According to its Web site, the Miraval estate is located on a site first inhabited in pre-Roman times. Today, it features fountains, ancient aqueducts, a moat, a pond and vineyards that produce a highly esteemed organic wine.

Locals know Miraval most for receiving rock stars over the years. The estate includes a studio that's hosted the likes of Sting, the Cranberries and Pink Floyd, who recorded tracks for "The Wall" album there.

## DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

# †EMERY JOSEPH INOS PANGELINAN

**"EJ"**

**Born to Eternal Life: March 19, 1977**
**Called to Eternal Life: May 26, 2008**

**of San Antonio Village, Saipan was called to eternal home by our Lord at the age of 31.**

***Predeceased by:***

| | |
|---|---|
| Father: | †Pedro Dela Cruz Pangelinan |
| Sister: | †Ruth Margaret I. Pangelinan |
| Maternal Grandparents: | †Emilio A. & †Augustina Q. Inos |
| Maternal Auntie: | †Magdalena M. Inos |
| Maternal Uncle: | †Gregorio Q. & †Patrick Q. Inos |
| Paternal Uncle: | †Norbert DLC. Pangelinan) |
| Paternal Auntie: | †Agnes P. Deleon Guerrero |

***Predeceased by in-laws:***

| | |
|---|---|
| Grandmother: | Magdalena Nakatsukasa Maratita |
| Auntie: | Remedio N. Basa |
| Uncles: | Herman T. Nakatsukasa, Juan N. Maratita, Jeffrey N. Maratita, Johannes N. Maratita |

***Survived by:***

| | |
|---|---|
| Mother: | **Judith Inos Pangelinan** |
| Wife: | **Madelaine Maratita Pangelinan** |
| Sons: | **Donavan Joshua M. Pangelinan & Pedro DLC. Pangelinan II** |
| Parents-in- law: | **Eddie Q. & Consuelo M. Reyes** |
| Paternal Grandparents: | **Hilarion R. & Maxima DLC. Pangelinan** |
| Grandfather-in-law: | **Thomas C. Maratita** |
| Godparents: | **David & Rosa Ayuyu; Henry & Ana Indalencio; Juan Q. & Julie R. Inos** |
| Brothers/Spouse & Children: | **Nobert I. & Juliana I. Pangelinan (Nikana Jumae & Nobert Jr.)**<br>**Shawn I. Pangelinan**<br>**Gregg Davin P. Sasamoto (Brandon Darrion)** |
| Brothers-in-law: | **Eddie Jr. M. Reyes/Jodie Ann Inos and Peter John M. Reyes** |
| Maternal Uncle & Auntie: | **Thomas M. & Laura I. Manglona, Children & Families**<br>**Juan Q. & Julie R. Inos, Children & Families** |
| Paternal Uncles & Aunties: | **Juan D. Cruz**<br>**Henry DLC. & Matilde L. Pangelinan, Children &Families**<br>**Francisco C. & †Agnes P. Deleon Guerrero, Children & Families**<br>**Martin DLC. & Frances Dlr. Pangelinan, Children & Families**<br>**Francisco A. & Ruth P. Ada, Children & Families**<br>**Oscar DLC.& Frannie B. Pangelinan, Children & Families**<br>**John T. & Rebecca P. Santos, Children & Families**<br>**Allen & Brenda P. Manibusan, Children & Families**<br>**Laureon DLC. & Vera T. Pangelinan, Children & Families** |

Additionally survived by numerous nephews, nieces, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Holy Mass is being offered at Saint Jude Church, Koblerville at 6:00 pm followed by the rosary. On Tuesday, June 03, 2008 at 7:30 a.m. our beloved EJ will be escorted from Cabrera Funeral Home to St. Jude Church for viewing and last respect. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Interment Service will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

**Judith I. Pangelinan, Children and Families**
**Madelaine, Donovin and Pedro II**

# Tenor Marcello Giordani cancels performances

**NEW YORK** (AP—Tenor Marcello Giordani is canceling his performances through July because of a recurrence of a herniated disk.

The Sicilian singer, who has had back problems before, will miss performances of Puccini's "Turandot" at the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia in Valencia, Spain, and "Tosca" at the Arena di Verona in Italy, spokeswoman Mindi Rayner said Thursday.

Giordani is scheduled to sing at the Vienna State Opera in September in Verdi's "La Forza del Destino" and at the Metropolitan Opera for Verdi Requiem, a performance dedicated to the memory of late tenor Luciano Pavarotti.

AP

In this March 31, 2008 file photo, singer Marcello Giordani attends a reception prior to "Franco and Friends," the Metropolitan Opera Guild's all-star tribute to Franco Zeffirelli in New York.

# Neurologist, choir explore music's healing power

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Noted neurologist Oliver Sacks has found common ground with the pastor of Harlem's Abyssinian Baptist Church: Both men believe in the healing power of music.

Sacks, the best-selling author of "Awakenings" and "The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat," shared the church stage Saturday with the famed gospel choir as part of the inaugural World Science Festival, a five-day celebration of science taking place in New York this week.

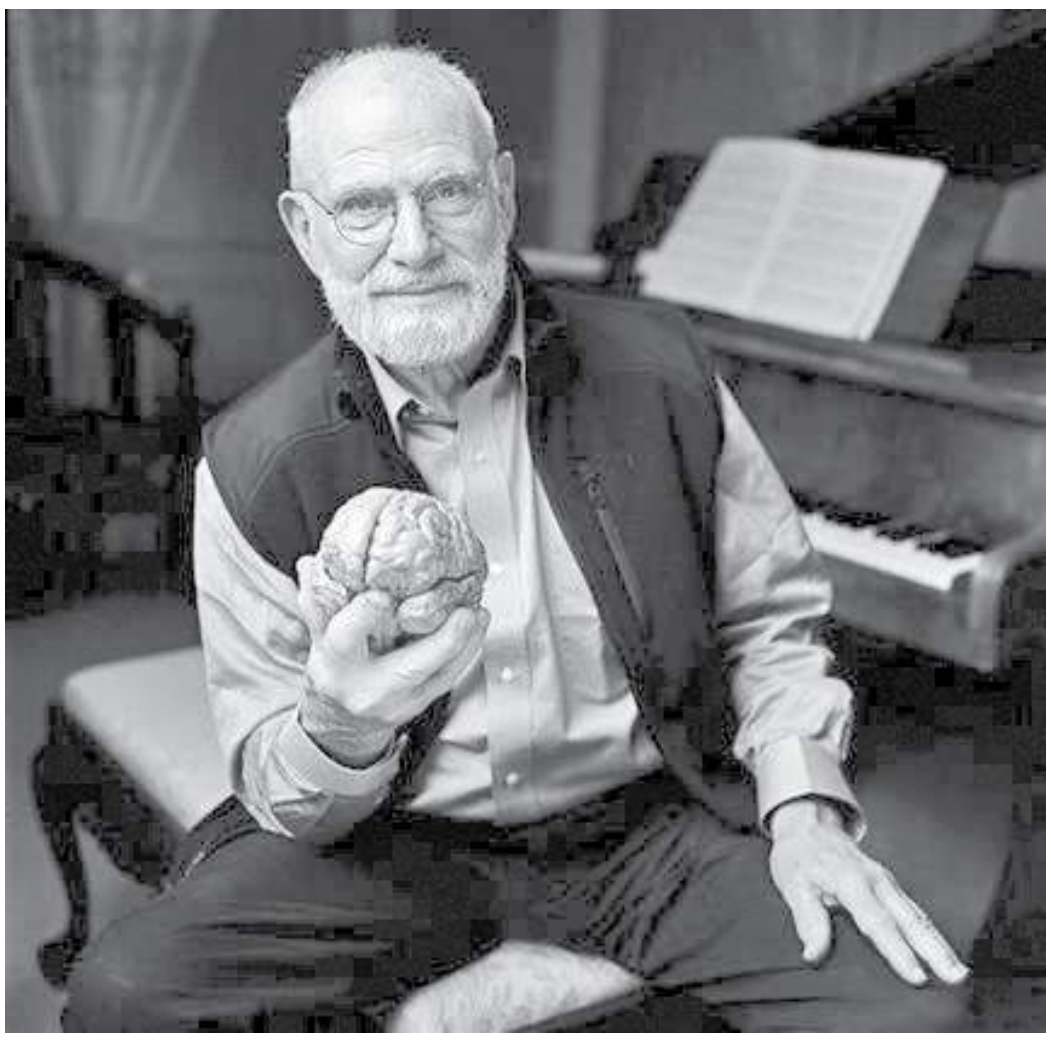
"It should be an exciting and unusual event," Sacks said in an interview this week. "I will talk about the therapeutic and beneficent power of music as a physician, and then their wonderful choir will perform. ... And the audience will make what they can of it."

Sacks' most recent book is "Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain," which examines the relationship between music and the brain, including its healing effect on people suffering from such diseases as Tourette's syndrome, Parkinson's, autism and Alzheimer's.

"Even with advanced dementia, when powers of memory and language are lost, people will respond to music," he said.

A Baptist church is an unusual venue for Sacks, a professor of clinical neurology and clinical psychiatry at Columbia University Medical Center who was brought up Jewish but is not a religious believer.

But the central role of music in church makes Abyssinian a good place to discuss the myriad ways that music affects the human brain, said Sacks, who was played by Robin Williams in the movie version of "Awakenings."



AP

In this 2007 photo provided by the BBC, Neurologist Oliver Sacks poses at a piano while holding a model of a brain at the Chemistry Auditorium, University College London in London.

Abyssinian's pastor, the Rev. Calvin O. Butts III, said the choir is looking forward to performing with Sacks. He noted that music plays a central role in the healing power of prayer.

"What we have been studying ... is that when you pray, there's actually a physiological change in the body," he said. "Music is very much a part of this. There are certain notes that generate in the human body a kind of peacefulness."

Abyssinian was founded by Ethiopian sea traders in 1808 and is celebrating its bicentennial. It is a popular destination for European tourists, who line up around the block in Harlem for Sunday services.

The event there is one of two Sacks is participating in during the World Science Festival. The other focuses on vision and the brain.

The festival was conceived by Columbia University physicist Brian Greene and his wife, Tracy Day, a broadcast journalist.

"Our intent is to help shift the public perception of science, so that people realize that science is as important as art, literature, film, theater," Greene said.

Panelists include Nobel laureates, as well as actors, dancers, philosophers and science journalists.

Greene said he hopes the festival will spread to other cities.

## CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY
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**Q: This is about "CSI: Miami." I was watching the program the other day, and I had to turn it off when I realized that the investigators are supposed to be the smartest guys around. I was an officer in Chicago, and nobody makes the kind of mistakes these investigators make.**

**For example, an area was taped off with yellow plastic ribbon to protect the crime scene. An ex-husband of one of the female lab investigators approached her, and she told him to leave. He remained and continued to harass her. There was a uniformed officer in the background. The ex-husband should have been arrested immediately by the uniformed officer, not only for violating the crime scene, but because his ex-wife accused him of stalking her.**

**I love good police programs like "Bones," but "CSI: Miami" is off my list.—Bob B., via e-mail**

**A**: It is unfortunate, but sometimes protocol (and common sense) is thrown out the window for the sake of "drama."

■ ■ ■

**Q: Who sang "Thank You for Being a Friend," the theme song of "The Golden Girls"? —Cathy M. in Florida**

Sean Astin

**A:** The popular song was written and originally performed by Andrew Gold in 1978, but the sitcom version of the song was sung by Cindy Fee, a well-known session and jingle singer.

■ ■ ■

**Q: Whatever happened to the son Patty Duke had with Desi Arnaz Jr.? I remember when he was born back in the early 1970s, but never heard anything more about him. I know Lucille Ball was unhappy about it, and I wondered if she had it hushed up.—Laura C., Englewood, Fla.**

**A:** The son in question is actor Sean Astin ("Rudy," "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy). For a long time, people had speculated that Sean was Desi Arnaz Jr.'s son, since Patty Duke had had a short-lived affair with him. After her breakup with Desi, Patty married rock promotor Michael Tell, which only served to fuel rumors that the child was indeed Desi's. Prior to marrying Michael, Patty was involved with actor John Astin, and she truly believed that Sean was John's son.

However, after a DNA test was conducted, it was discovered that Michael Tell was indeed the father of Sean. Michael and Patty's marriage was annulled after only two weeks of wedlock, Patty went back to John, and they married in 1972. He adopted Sean and raised him as his own. In 1973, Patty and John welcomed son MacKenzie. The couple divorced in 1985.

■ ■ ■

**Q: Will the Lifetime Television series "Side Order of Life," starring Jason Priestley, be back for a second season? I have been looking all over for information, but can find nothing.—Jennifer A. in Washington**

**A:** It was announced that "Side Order" will not be back for a second season. Maybe this means we'll get to see Jason on the new "90210" spin-off to air on the CW this fall.

# Dad's dates disappear when they hear of troubled daughter

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

**DEAR ABBY**: I am a 54-year-old divorced father of one daughter. I'm fit, look good for my age and earn a good income as a consultant. I'm not rich, but I own a condo and have a sizable retirement fund.

I have a strong desire to remarry, but I have some "baggage." My daughter, "Danielle," is bipolar. She has done nothing since graduating from high school last year but get into trouble. Danielle has been arrested for drugs and stealing, and hangs out with a rough crowd. My ex-wife does not have the inner strength to throw her out, which would probably be the best thing for her. This is out of my control, but still, women I date lose interest in me when they learn about my daughter.

I hate to lie, but I think I may have to start when we trade information about our children. Theirs are often very accomplished, so the contrast is terrible. Should I make up some half-truths until the time is right to tell the whole story? I'll follow your recommendation.

EMBARRASSED IN VIRGINIA

**DEAR EMBARRASSED: Your daughter suffers from a mental illness. She belongs in treatment, not on the streets. That your ex-wife hasn't thrown her out isn't a reflection of weakness, but a measure of her strength of character.**

**You and your ex could both benefit from joining a support group—and I have one for you. It's the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance. Since it was founded in 1986, it has grown to more than 1,000 support groups nationwide, and offers advice and online information for persons with depressive and manic-depressive illness and their families. To find a chapter near you, call toll-free (800) 826-3632 or visit its Web site: www.dbsalliance.org.**

**Under no circumstances should you concoct any "half-truths" in an attempt to cover up your situation. A woman who would write you off because you have a sick child doesn't sound like much of a catch. And any woman with a head on her shoulders would resent having been misled.**

**I don't know where you're finding the women you've been seeing, but I recommend you fish in other dating pools. In a support group you might meet someone with whom you have much in common.**

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: I live in Chicago and commute to and from work each day on the El train, which is typically crowded. There are never enough seats to go around. What surprises me is the lack of thoughtfulness that men show when it comes to seating. It's extremely rare for a man to offer a seat to a lady. In fact, I have watched men race past women to grab seats. Just the other day, there was a very pregnant woman on the train and not a single person offered her a seat.

I'm not trying to portray females as the needy, weaker sex, but some chivalry would be nice. In this age of equal rights, am I outdated in my thinking?

NEEDS A SEAT IN CHICAGO

**DEAR NEEDS A SEAT: I don't think so, but there are those who would argue with us. With more people using public transportation because of increased fuel prices, seats are at a premium. One would hope that the commuters would practice good manners, but if a man didn't offer a pregnant woman his seat during the commute, I would offer her mine rather than force her to stand on swollen feet and ankles.**

---

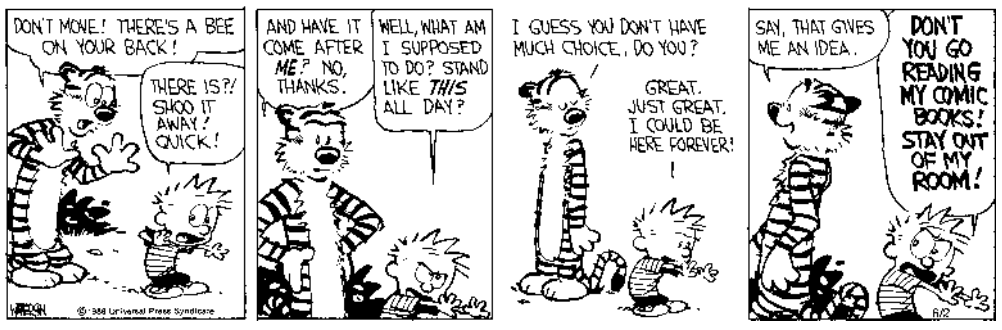
*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

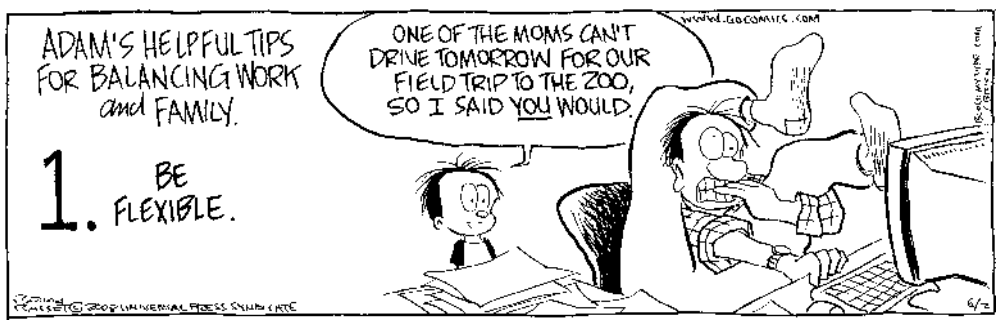

DON'T MOVE! THERE'S A BEE ON YOUR BACK!
THERE IS?! SHOO IT AWAY! QUICK!
AND HAVE IT COME AFTER ME? NO, THANKS.
WELL, WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? STAND LIKE THIS ALL DAY?
I GUESS YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE, DO YOU?
GREAT. JUST GREAT. I COULD BE HERE FOREVER!
SAY, THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA.
DON'T YOU GO READING MY COMIC BOOKS! STAY OUT OF MY ROOM!

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

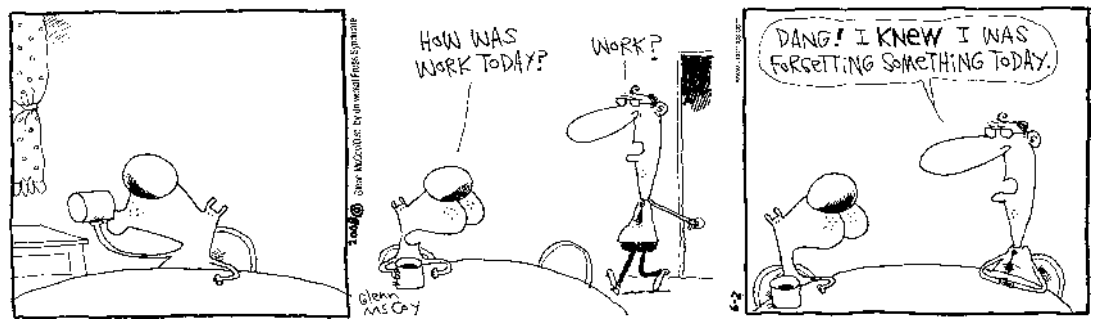
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ADAM'S HELPFUL TIPS FOR BALANCING WORK and FAMILY.
1. BE FLEXIBLE.
ONE OF THE MOMS CAN'T DRIVE TOMORROW FOR OUR FIELD TRIP TO THE ZOO, SO I SAID YOU WOULD.

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy




## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

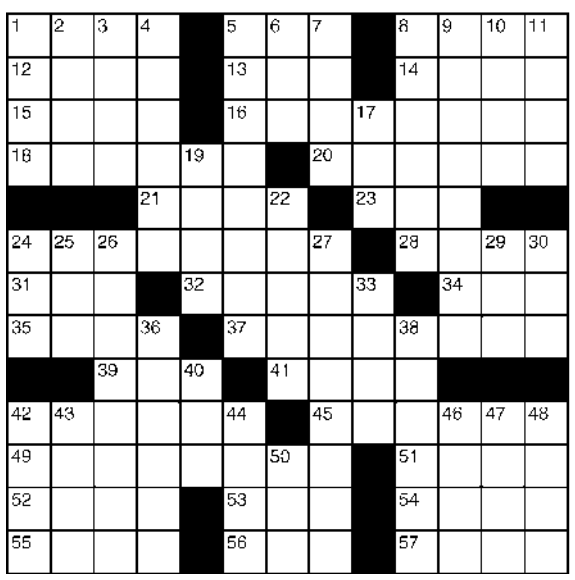
**ACROSS**
1 Frost
5 Watch chain
8 Minuscule bit
12 Others, in Latin
13 Manmouse link
14 Popular Asian cuisine
15 Engagement emblem
16 Texas steer variety
18 Like many indoor plants
20 Rough
21 5th and Lex., for two
23 Lennon's lady
24 Hung around
28 Tweaks the soundtrack
31 Ostrich's cousin
32 Wild West show
34 "Golly!"
35 Big tale
37 Stretch out
39 Droop
41 Anger
42 Show off
45 Fanatical one
49 Tongue
51 Took the train
52 Leave a lasting impression?
53 "Smoking or —?"
54 "Once — a time, ..."
55 Sharpen
56 Chess pcs.
57 Saucy

**DOWN**
1 Angelic strings
2 Medley
3 "— She Sweet?"
4 Unkempt
5 Poppycock
6 Gold, in Guadalajara
7 French judge's place
8 Nearby
9 Omitting nothing
10 Galley supply
11 Seven Dwarfs' workplace
17 Sticky stuff
19 Incessantly
22 Passover feast
24 Shelter
25 Rascally tyke
26 Pest
27 Dwellers
29 Spelling contest
30 D.C. VIP
33 Look lasciviously
36 Snagged
38 Make confetti of
40 Wildebeest
42 Soared
43 Strip of wood
44 Army vehicle
46 Easy bounding gait
47 Smell
48 Bivouac structure
50 Understood

Solution time: 24 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | E | L | G | A | R | ■ | E | R | U | P | T | S |
| B | R | A | N | C | H | ■ | R | E | S | O | R | T |
| E | S | T | A | T | E | ■ | I | T | A | L | I | A |
| D | E | E | R | ■ | T | I | E | R | ■ | I | O | N |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | S | H | O | D | ■ | O | P | T | ■ | ■ |
| I | N | K | ■ | A | R | E | A | ■ | S | I | L | O |
| C | A | N | A | D | I | A | N | B | A | C | O | N |
| E | G | O | S | ■ | C | L | A | Y | ■ | S | U | E |
| ■ | ■ | T | H | E | ■ | L | I | E | U | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| B | A | H | ■ | J | O | Y | S | ■ | N | A | T | O |
| A | V | O | W | E | D | ■ | N | O | C | K | E | D |
| S | I | L | ■ | C | A | ■ | I | N | L | I | N | E |
| E | V | E | N | T | S | ■ | N | O | E | N | D | ■ |

Saturday's answer 6-2



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**: Wayne Brady, 36; Joel Tobeck, 37; Marvin Hamlisch, 64; Stacy Keach, 67

**Happy Birthday**: There must be no stretching the truth, gossiping or making assumptions this year. As long as you keep things on track, you will excel. Creative and innovative ideas will be easy for you but weeding through what you want and don't want will be the problem. Clear thinking will lead to gains. Your numbers are 2, 10, 13, 22, 38, 41

**ARIES** (*March 21-April 19*): Don't take your mind or your eyes off what needs to be done. The only way to achieve what you want is to go at it with tenacity. An opportunity will come from someone watching you from afar. ✪✪✪

**TAURUS** (*April 20-May 20*): Emotional matters will arise with loved ones and causes you believe in. Fight for what you think is right but don't let your stubbornness cause you to go one step too far. Balance will be the key. ✪✪✪

**GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*): You may be all wrapped up in the moment, especially if you are smitten with someone. Emotional deception is apparent, so be careful you don't take someone's word for it. Do your homework and don't get angry with the wrong person. ✪✪✪

**CANCER** (*June 21-July 22*): Look out for someone who is fickle, changeable or just inconsiderate. Align yourself will individuals you know you can count on and gains can be made personally and professionally. Don't be too revealing in your conversations. ✪✪✪✪

**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Target what you want and need but don't use force to get it. Instead, be complimentary, accommodating and honest. If you go behind someone's back, you can expect to end up with no deal or comeback. ✪✪

**VIRGO** (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You may know what you are doing but it will be difficult convincing others you do. With a couple of adjustments, you can turn skeptics into believers and buy the time and help you need. Love problems are prevalent. ✪✪✪✪✪

**LIBRA** (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Mingling, communicating, networking, attending functions and getting involved in a worthy cause should fill your day. Too much idle time or dealing with personal issues will lead to trouble and hold you back. ✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Listen and take note of what others are doing before you jump into something you know little about. Someone may talk a good talk but, when it comes to producing the goods, isn't likely to come through for you. ✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You will have lots to contend with where partnerships are concerned. With work or play, you will find someone who will want answers from you regarding your position and your intentions. Making a snap decision to travel will cause problems. ✪✪✪

**CAPRICORN** (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll be able to find solutions for problems with work, school or dealing with children. By acting fast, you can avoid unnecessary interaction with authorities or institutions. An emotional issue regarding money must be taken care of. ✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**AQUARIUS** (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let anyone who is critical spoil your day or stop you from doing the things that mean most to you. Your imagination should lead to bigger and better ideas, directions and dealings with people who are good for your morale. ✪✪

**PISCES** (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Stick to whatever needs to be finished and don't let anyone sway you to do something else. Just because you think highly of someone or are smitten with him or her doesn't mean you should neglect your own life to be accommodating. ✪✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby**: You are imaginative, inventive, outgoing and adaptable. You are intrigued by the unfamiliar and destined to make ground-breaking discoveries throughout your life.

*Eugenia's Web sites:* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

# SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 3 | | | | 8 | | |
| 9 | | | 5 | 4 | 6 | | | 1 |
| 4 | | 2 | | | | 6 | | 9 |
| | 4 | | 8 | | 7 | | 3 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | | 6 | | 9 | | 8 | |
| 3 | | 6 | | | | 7 | | 8 |
| 8 | | | 7 | 5 | 3 | | | 2 |
| | | 4 | | | | 1 | | |

Difficulty Level ★ 6/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 3 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 9 |
| 1 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| 2 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 6 |
| 9 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| 5 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| 7 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| 6 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 4 |
| 8 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 2 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/31

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, over, backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**SECRETS IN A WOMAN'S PURSE** **Solution: 7 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | K | E | Y | S | T | O | R | A | G | E | L | P | P | A |
| I | S | P | E | R | F | U | M | E | M | C | O | I | N | S |
| S | C | H | S | U | R | B | R | I | A | H | T | O | L | C |
| S | A | T | A | Y | K | A | E | L | C | A | N | D | Y | D |
| U | M | T | S | P | M | C | C | Y | C | B | T | O | T | E |
| E | E | S | C | I | E | U | I | E | E | I | E | T | K | Z |
| R | R | E | N | H | L | E | L | T | S | L | N | V | O | I |
| E | A | T | S | A | E | L | A | W | S | L | I | I | O | N |
| H | S | C | T | R | P | L | A | E | O | P | C | N | B | A |
| T | C | O | O | H | U | L | U | E | R | A | I | Y | E | G |
| A | R | T | O | M | L | P | S | Z | I | P | D | L | N | R |
| E | R | N | U | E | P | N | E | E | E | E | E | R | O | O |
| L | E | C | T | L | E | A | D | R | S | R | M | I | H | Z |
| H | C | U | O | P | C | Y | C | S | I | Z | E | G | P | A |
| A | D | O | C | U | M | E | N | T | S | O | A | H | C | R |

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Accessories, Accumulate, Apple, Bill, Calculator, Camera, Candy, Carry, Cell phone, Chaos, Cloth, Clutch, Coins, Compact, Documents, Eyeliner, Girl, Hairbrush, Keys, Leather, Lipstick, List, Medicine, Mints, Organized, Paper, Pens, Perfume, Phonebook, Pouch, Purse, Razor, Satchel, Shape, Size, Storage, Tissue, Tote, Tweezers, Used, Vinyl, Wallet

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|---|---|
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# Ginepri prevents US shutout in Paris

**PARIS** (AP)—Robby Ginepri is easy to spot at the French Open in his oh-so-American getup: black baseball cap turned backward and sleeveless T-shirt.

His game, remarkably, has the feel of someone from somewhere else. He slides across the court comfortably. He plays defense. He waits, patiently, for openings. Even more remarkably, he is into the fourth round at the clay-court Grand Slam tournament, the first man from the United States to reach that stage since Andre Agassi in 2003.

That Ginepri would beat Florent Serra of France 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 Saturday is not necessarily newsworthy, in and of itself. Ginepri is 25 years old, ranked 88th and was a U.S. Open semifinalist in 2005; Serra is 27, ranked 94th and lost in the first or second round at each of the previous 13 major championships he entered.

Yet consider this: A week ago, Ginepri owned an 0-5 record at Roland Garros and a 6-24 career mark on clay. He was ranked 171st in January after losing in the first round of qualifying at the Australian Open.

"He is back," Serra said.

Had Ginepri lost, one day after Venus and Serena Williams were sent home, this French Open would have been only the second Grand Slam event in the 40-year history of the Open era at which zero American men or women reached the fourth round. The only time it happened was at the 1973 Australian Open, where, it must be noted, zero American men or women were in the field.

"Last guy standing. It's a good feeling," said Ginepri, who shares coach Jose Higueras with Roger Federer. "I would definitely like to have a lot of the other Americans still in the tournament, of course, but really not trying to let that weigh on my shoulders."

There are other countries finding far more success.

Despite Serra's departure, for example, five men from France reached the French Open's fourth round, something that last occurred in 1971. There also are five Russian women still around, and, coincidentally, four find themselves in the same quarter of the draw, led by No. 1 Maria Sharapova.

She faces No. 13 Dinara Safina for a place in the quarterfinals; the winner will meet No. 7 Elena Dementieva or No. 11 Vera Zvonareva. All won in straight sets Saturday, as did No. 4 Svetlana Kuznetsova, the 2004 U.S. Open champion and 2006 French Open runner-up, who eliminated yet another Russian, No. 25 Nadia Petrova.

After stumbling through a pair of three-set victories, accumulating 27 double-faults along the way, Sharapova was sharper—for about a set, anyway. Her 7-6 (4), 6-0 victory over No. 32 Karin Knapp of Italy wasn't without hiccups, including nine more double-faults, two of which allowed Knapp to break when Sharapova served for the first set at 5-4.

But Sharapova's serve and other strokes grew sturdier. She hit a high-kicking service winner to get to set point in the tiebreaker, then smacked a cross-court backhand to end it, punctuating the winner with a shriek of "Yeah!" That presaged a strong finish.

"It was like my twin sister was here," Sharapova said, "and then Maria actually made her flight, and made it for the second set."

Federer, the No. 1 man, put himself in the second week at the 16th consecutive Slam by beating Mario Ancic 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. Ancic was the last player to beat Federer at Wimbledon—back in 2002, before the Swiss star won any of his 12 major titles—but has since lost all five of their encounters.

Federer called himself "the overwhelming favorite" going into his match against one of the French Five, 55th-ranked Julien Benneteau, who celebrated his victory over Robin Soderling by tossing his shirt and sneakers into the stands.

Other fourth-round matchups include No. 5 David Ferrer vs. No. 21 Radek Stepanek, and France's Gael Monfils vs. No. 28 Ivan Ljubicic, who erased a two-set deficit to defeat No. 4 Nikolay Davydenko 4-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

If Ginepri is to reach his second Slam quarterfinal, he will have to beat 2007 Australian Open runner-up Fernando Gonzalez for the first time. Gonzalez, who got past No. 9 Stanislas Wawrinka in five sets Saturday, won all three previous meetings against Ginepri, though none was on clay.

"I'm going to just keep playing my game the way I have in the last three matches," Ginepri said, "and hopefully come out on top again."

He credits his recent turnaround to strategic pointers from Higueras, who guided Michael Chang and Jim Courier to French Open titles, and motivational support from his other coach, Diego Moyano.

"Talking with both of them has really opened up another door with me on the clay court," said Ginepri, who's been wearing an odd-looking mix of white and black tape from his right shoulder to his wrist to prevent a triceps injury from acting up. "Before, I really had no clue how to construct points or what type of shots to hit when I was in trouble."

He limited himself to 18 unforced errors Saturday. Serra had 43.

At 4-4 in the third set, Serra let a 40-15 edge slip away, starting by sailing a forehand long. At deuce, Serra blinked first during a 25-stroke exchange, slapping a forehand into the net. He netted a backhand on the next point to seal the break.

Serving for the match, Ginepri faced three break points—and saved them all, wrapping up a 6-for-7 day in that category. On his second match point, Ginepri scrambled along the baseline to extend the 12-stroke point until Serra sent a forehand wide.

"I'm staying focused throughout the whole, entire match," said Ginepri, who calls Kennessaw, Ga., home. "Maybe a couple years ago I would have dropped the third set and tried to pull it out in the fourth. So to get through in three today is a great achievement."

Even better, of course, would be a berth in the quarterfinals, where Federer could await.

What would Higueras do if his two employers were to play each other?

"If that 'problem' occurs," Federer said, "I think he's happy."

AP

United States' Robby Ginepri returns the ball to France's Florent Serra during their third round match at the French Open tennis tournament in Paris on Saturday May 31, 2008.

# Goggin builds 3-shot lead entering Memorial finale

**DUBLIN, Ohio** (AP)—Mathew Goggin kept birdies and mistakes to a minimum on a long Saturday at the Memorial, shooting a 1-under 71 that was good enough to build a three-shot lead as he tries to win his first PGA Tour event.

Muirfield Village changed its character, but only slightly, thanks to a 2 1/2-hour rain delay that led to long shadows late in the third round. What didn't change was the rough and difficult conditions, and Goggin didn't have to do much to keep his lead.

He was at 8-under 208, the highest 54-hole score at Jack Nicklaus' event since Greg Norman won a rain-shortened tournament in 1990 at even-par 216. The more significant number was his three-shot lead.

Goggin has said since opening with a 65 that a first- and second-round lead didn't mean too much. And now?

"Expectations are rising," he said. "Three shots in front, I expect to win."

But he doesn't expect it to be easy, not at a Muirfield Village course that resembles a U.S. Open from the 1990s, and not with five players stacked up behind him.

Former Masters champion Mike Weir matched the best round of the day, a bogey-free 68 that put him at 5-under 211 and in the final group with Goggin, who has never had a 54-hole lead on the PGA Tour.

Matt Kuchar was among those going backward until holing out with a wedge for eagle on the 15th, following that with a birdie on the 16th and posting a 71 to join the large group in a tie for second.

Also at 211 was Justin Rose (70), who captured the European Tour Order of Merit last year but has yet to win on this side of the Atlantic; Jerry Kelly, whose superb ball-striking was wasted by 34 putts in his round of 73; and Kenny Perry, whose spirits were lifted with an 18-foot birdie on the last hole for a 74.

Perry, a two-time champion at the Memorial who has squandered two good chance to win this month, missed six putts inside 10 feet on the back nine as he slid further away from Goggin. But the birdie on No. 18 kept him in the game.

"The guys at 3 under are in this golf tournament," Perry said. "If Mathew has an off day tomorrow, it brings the whole field in. It's definitely his tournament to win. If he shoots 75, then the door's wide open for everybody."

No one knows what to expect from Goggin, whose last victory came 10 years ago in the Australasian Tour Championship.

The 33-year-old Australian was tied with Perry to start the third round, and as usual, he got out of the blocks quickly with a 35-foot birdie on the opening hole and a wedge that steadied itself in the wind and landed 5 feet away on No. 3.

Perry got within one shot before he started missing greens and missing par putts, and Goggin kept at least a two-shot margin throughout the back nine, even as cheers were all around him.

"You can't press out here," he said. "You've got to let the birdies come to you."

His best plays might have been for par. Goggin got up-and-down from the back bunker on the par-3 12th, then faced a tough shot from a deep bunker right of the 17th green. His shot was running quickly until it struck the pin, rattled around to the other side and settled 2 feet away to keep his distance.

Weir, lost amid the Phil Mickelson-Sergio Garcia grouping the first two days, has steadily crept up the leaderboard and stayed out of trouble most of the day. He picked up a birdie on the par-5 fifth, and thought he was in trouble on the sixth when his tee shot caught a gust, leaving him 215 to a shallow green over the pond.

"I knifed a 3-iron in there about 8 feet," Weir said. "That's when I knew that things were going pretty good. I was hitting solid shots, and outside of that, I didn't have much trouble."

Weir didn't read too much into Goggin's inexperience with the lead.

Two years ago, he was tied with Arron Oberholser going into the final round of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, caught a few bad breaks with mud early in the round and staggered home to a 78 as Oberholser collected his first tour victory.

"You know what? You have to win some time," Weir said. "And sometimes a guy, when he hasn't won, is hungry and wants to do it. Inexperience or not, Mat's been around a long time and he's a good player."

Nick O'Hern (72) was at 4-under 212, while former U.S. Open champion Geoff Ogilvy was in the group at 213, five shots behind. That might seem like a lot, but it's the margin K.J. Choi made up a year ago.

Mickelson, meanwhile, never recovered from a double bogey on the 17th hole and shot 70, leaving him nine shots back.

# Boston's Ramirez hits milestone homer No. 500

**BALTIMORE** (AP) — Manny Ramirez became the 24th major league player to reach 500 career home runs, connecting in the seventh inning off Chad Bradford to help the Boston Red Sox beat the Baltimore Orioles 6-3 on Saturday.

The 500-home run club has only two dozen members, but Ramirez also joined an even smaller fraternity. He is only the seventh player in MLB history with 500 homers, 1,500 RBIs, 1,000 walks, 475 doubles and a .300 batting average. The others are Hank Aaron, Willie Mays, Mel Ott, Babe Ruth, Frank Thomas and Ted Williams.

David Ortiz and Dustin Pedroia also homered for the Red Sox, and Jacoby Ellsbury stole three bases in a second straight game. Ellsbury also tripled in the seventh off Lance Cormier (0-2) and scored the go-ahead run on a sacrifice fly by Ortiz before Bradford entered to face Ramirez.

### Rays 2, White Sox 0

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Scott Kazmir won his fifth straight start, allowing three hits in seven innings of AL East-leading Tampa Bay's victory over Chicago.

The 2007 AL strikeout champion set a Rays record for wins in a month, improving to 5-1 since spending all of April on the disabled list with a left elbow strain.

Cliff Floyd homered for the second straight game and B.J. Upton drove in another run off Javier Vazquez (5-4) with an RBI grounder, helping the surprising Rays to a league-best 34-22.

### Mariners 5, Tigers 0

At Seattle, Felix Hernandez allowed just two hits in seven innings, and Kenji Johjima likely scored the most unusual run of his career with a steal of home in Seattle's win.

Big-budget Detroit has been shut out a major league-leading nine times, three times its total from last year.

Hernandez (3-5) struck out seven and snapped his own five-game, six-week losing streak.

In the fourth, Johjima was on third base when Seattle manager John McLaren gave Miguel Cairo the signal for a squeeze.

Johjima took off for home and Justin Verlander's pitch bounced in front of the plate, giving Cairo no chance to bunt. The ball bounced off the chest protector of catcher Ivan Rodriguez and a few feet in front of the plate, and Johjima awkwardly tumbled around Rodriguez to score Seattle's first steal of home since September, 2005.

### Royals 4, Indians 2

At Kansas City, Missouri, David DeJesus homered and Kyle Davies pitched five strong innings just hours after being called up from Triple-A to help Kansas City end a 12-game slide.

Davies (1-0) gave up one run on five hits. The Royals, who started the game with the fewest runs, sacrifice flies, RBIs and walks in the major leagues, beat reigning Cy Young winner C. C. Sabathia (3-7) to end what manager Trey Hillman had been calling "this miserable streak."

### Rangers 8, Athletics 4

At Arlington, Texas, Josh Hamilton homered and drove in three runs and Texas won 19 games in a month for the first time since June 1983.

Hamilton pushed his RBI total to a major league-leading 61 with a two-run homer in the fifth. Michael Young, Ian Kinsler and Frank Catalanotto each added three hits for the Rangers, who battered Joe Blanton (3-7) and Oakland for 14 total hits.

Sidney Ponson (4-1) allowed four runs and nine hits in seven innings for Texas.

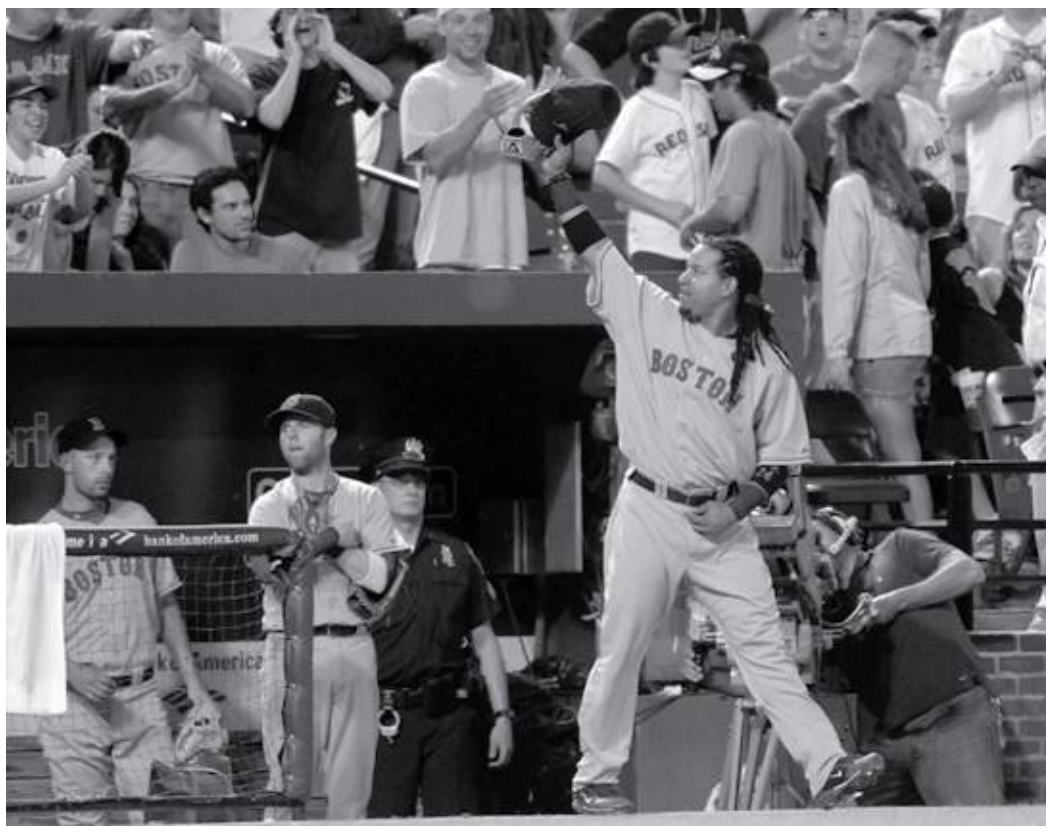
### Yankees 7, Twins 6, 12 innings

At Minneapolis, Bobby Abreu broke a 12th-inning tie with a one-out single for New York to beat Minnesota.

Juan Rincon (2-2) gave up singles to Johnny Damon and slumping Derek Jeter before Abreu came through with his floater into shallow center field.

The Twins left two men on in both the 10th and the 11th, with none out in the 11th.

The Yankees had a brief 6-3 lead, but Chien-Ming Wang gave up two runs in the sixth and Michael Cuddyer tied it against Edwar Ramirez with a homer in the seventh.



AP

Boston Red Sox's Manny Ramirez acknowledges fans after hitting his 500th career home run in the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Saturday, May 31, 2008, at Oriole Park at Camden Yards in Baltimore.

### Angels 3, Blue Jays 2, 10 innings

At Anaheim, California, Maicer Izturis set up the winning run with a bunt single, his fourth hit of the game, and pinch-hitter Juan Rivera delivered an RBI single in the 10th to give Los Angeles the win.

Casey Kotchman singled with one out against Toronto's Brian Tallet (0-1) and advanced to third when Izturis laid down a bunt to the left of the mound. Tallet picked it up and bounced his throw past first base, giving the Angels runners at second and third. Rivera batted for Brandon Wood after an intentional walk to Jeff Mathis and lined a 1-1 pitch to right-center, giving the Angels their third walk-off win in five games.

### Reds 8, Braves 7

At Cincinnati, Ken Griffey Jr. hit his 599th career homer, leaving him one shy of a seldom-reached mark, and Jay Bruce extended his amazing weeklong debut with a 10th-inning homer that lifted the Cincinnati Reds over the Atlanta Braves.

Bruce, the Reds' top prospect, is 11-for-19 in his first five games in the majors, providing one big hit after another. He has a pair of three-hit games and a four-hit game.

Francisco Cordero (2-0) pitched the 10th, sending the Braves to an excruciatingly familiar finish. Atlanta has lost its last 20 one-run games on the road since August, matching the second-longest such streak in major league history.

### Mets 3, Dodgers 2

At New York, Carlos Beltran hit a tying homer and Fernando Tatis singled home the go-ahead run in the eighth inning for New York against Los Angeles.

Mike Pelfrey tossed seven solid innings to keep New York close. Stifled by Los Angeles starter Chad Billingsley, the Mets came back against Jonathan Broxton (2-2) in the eighth to win for the fourth time in five games following a 1-7 skid.

Blake DeWitt hit an RBI single for the Dodgers, who dropped to 1-5 on their seven-game road trip.

### Cubs 5, Rockies 4

At Chicago, Alfonso Soriano homered and drove in three runs to help Chicago earn its sixth straight win.

The NL Central-leading Cubs improved to 25-8 at Wrigley Field this season and handed Colorado its sixth straight loss.

Ryan Dempster (7-2) struggled with his command and lasted just five innings, but managed to get the win. He walked four, hit a batter with a pitch and was charged with three runs and three hits.

Omar Quintanilla, Todd Helton and Scott Podsednik homered for the Rockies. Former Cub Glendon Rusch (1-3), making his first start since July 9, 2006, gave up nine hits and five runs in 4 2-3 innings.

### Padres 5, Giants 1

At San Francisco, Josh Banks pitched a six-hitter for his first career complete game and sent San Diego to a fifth win in six games.

Adrian Gonzalez hit a two-run single in San Diego's four-run first as San Diego staked Banks (2-0) to a comfortable cushion, and added another RBI single in the seventh that scored his big brother, Edgar.

The 25-year-old Banks was impressive in his first start of 2008, first for the Padres and second of his career. He had a shutout going into the ninth, but allowed Aaron Rowand's RBI single.

Pat Misch (0-2) allowed five runs—four earned—and seven hits in 6 1-3 innings for San Francisco.

### Diamondbacks 4, Nationals 0

At Phoenix, Brandon Webb threw his eighth career shutout, Mark Reynolds homered twice and Arizona snapped a five-game losing streak.

Webb (10-2) scattered six singles in his second complete game of the year and 14th of his career. He struck out eight and hit two.

### Marlins 7, Phillies 3

At Philadelphia, Ricky Nolasco (5-3) pitched 6 2-3 strong innings and Florida roughed up Cole Hamels (5-4) in a victory that ended Philadelphia's five-game winning streak.

Luis Gonzalez hit a go-ahead two-run homer, his 350th, and Cody Ross and Jorge Cantu also went deep for the upstart Marlins, who moved back into first place in the NL East _ a half-game ahead of the Phillies.

### Pirates 14, Cardinals 4

At St. Louis, Luis Rivas hit his first career grand slam and Xavier Nady and Ronny Paulino drove in three runs apiece for Pittsburgh.

Nady hit a three-run double in a four-run first and Rivas finished a five-run third with a two-out drive to left-center.

### Brewers 4, Astros 1

At Milwaukee, Ben Sheets got within one out of pitching his third complete game of the season, and Prince Fielder and Russell Branyan homered for Milwaukee.

Sheets (6-1) left after walking Lance Berkman in the ninth inning, but gave up seven hits while striking out five to win for just the second time this month.

# Celtics, Lakers centerstage again for NBA finals

Boston's new Big Three reached the NBA's big stage. And just like their predecessors, they'll share it with the Los Angeles Lakers. The Celtics and Lakers are meeting again in the NBA finals, with Kobe and KG taking their place alongside the likes of Magic and Bird in the league's most storied rivalry.

"It means everything to Boston fans," Celtics forward Paul Pierce said. "To me, I think that's what pretty much got me started in basketball. Growing up in Los Angeles, watching the Lakers and the Celtics, and it's ironic, just being a Celtic, growing up, now you're playing against the Lakers in the finals.

"It's a dream come true, man, just thinking about it. I think that rivalry really revolutionized the game of basketball, and now I'm a part of it."

It will be the 11th championship meeting between the franchises, with Boston winning eight of its NBA-best 16 titles against the Lakers. But Los Angeles won the last two, in 1985 and '87.

Boston earned its first trip since by beating the Detroit Pistons in six games in the Eastern Conference finals. The Celtics ended the series with an 89-81 victory Friday and will host Game 1 of the finals on Thursday night.

Kevin Garnett, Pierce and Ray Allen, Boston's three All-Stars, are all in the finals for the first time. Garnett and Allen were acquired in offseason trades, and together with Pierce led the Celtics to the largest turnaround in NBA history.

Boston won only 24 games in 2006-07, but led the NBA with a 66-16 mark this season. However, the Lakers have been the dominant team in the postseason, compiling a 12-3 record.

Los Angeles eliminated the San Antonio Spurs in five games, wrapping up the series with a 100-92 victory on Thursday. Kobe Bryant, the league MVP, scored 17 of his 39 points in the fourth quarter and is averaging 31.9 points in the postseason.

Bryant helped the Lakers win three straight titles from 2000-02, and they fell short of another with a loss to the Pistons in 2004. They fell on hard times after that, following the trade of Shaquille O'Neal, missing the postseason in 2005 and getting knocked out in the first round the next two years.

A frustrated Bryant criticized the front office following last summer's loss to Phoenix and said he wanted to be traded, but instead the Lakers kept him and upgraded the team around him. Los Angeles brought back Derek Fisher, Bryant's teammate on the previous championship teams, then pulled off a major trade during the season by acquiring Pau Gasol from Memphis.

The Celtics haven't won a title since Larry Bird, Kevin McHale and Robert Parish led them past Houston in 1986. Boston and the Lakers of Magic Johnson, James Worthy and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar dominated the NBA in the 1980s: From 1980-88, the two rivals won all but one of the nine NBA championships—three for Boston, five for Los Angeles (and one for the Philadelphia 76ers)—and met for the title three times in four years.

"I remember it like it was yesterday," Garnett said. "I'm looking forward to this."

The Lakers have won 14 championships—nine in Los Angeles and five in Minneapolis.

Boston, which won both meetings during the regular season, also will host Game 2 before the series moves to Los Angeles for Games 3-5.

# Korea's Cho advances to Challenge singles finals

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Min Hyeok Cho's advanced to the finals of the 5th Annual Guam International Tennis Open's 16-player Male Singles Challenge Invitational and Eight-Team Men's Doubles Draw after winning his semifinal game against Hawaii's Ikaika Jobe last Saturday.

Cho, who hails from Korea and is ranked 792 in the world, rallied after a first set loss to beat Jobe at the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa tennis courts.

The 25-year-old Jobe, who is No. 992 in the ATP rankings, got the better of Cho in the opening set, 6-4.

With elimination starring him in the face, Cho overcame Jobe in tightly fought second, 7-5, to force a third and deciding set.

In the rubber race-to-six, Cho kept the pressure on Jobe and went on to score a relatively easy 6-3 win to advance to the championship round of the tournament.

The 21-year-old will await the result of the other semifinal contest pitting countryman Dylan Seong Kwan Kim and Japan's Tetsuya Chaen.

The 23-year-old Kim is ranked 965 in singles and 1,406 in doubles, while Chaen is the highest seed among the Final Four at No. 527 in the ATP rankings. He, however, is also the oldest at 35 years old.

In semifinal results earlier Saturday, Jobe defeated Joo Seung Park of Korea, 6-2, 6-3; and

Mat Klein of Australia beat Satoshi Iwabuchi of Japan after the latter withdrew from the competition.

In Pool B, Japan's Takahito Terachi got the better of Australia's Marvin Barker, 6-3, 7-5; and Kim won over Filipino Davis Cup player Johnny Arcilla, 4-0 (retired).

Action in Pool C saw Andrew Gregory of Australia beat Chaen, 7-5, 3-6, 7-5, and Dong-Whee Choi of Korea oust former Pacific Oceania Davis Cup player Lency Tenai, 6-2, 6-2

Pool D had Cho oust Patrick John Tierro of the Philippines, 6-1, 6-2, and Hiroyasu Sato of Japan win against Brad Lum-Tucker of Hawaii, 6-3, 6-4.

Friday's competition had Klein beat Park, 6-2, 6-2, and Jobe win via walkover against Iwabuchi in Pool A.

In Pool B, Kim was a 6-3, 6-2 winner over Terachi, while Arcilla scored a 6-0, 7-6 (0) victory over Barker.

Gregory, meanwhile, registered a 6-4, 6-2 win over Tenai and Chaen was a 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 winner over Choi in Pool C.

Pool D saw Tierro record wins over Sato (6-2, 6-4) and Lum-Tucker (6-3, 6-7(4), 6-2), while Cho scored a 6-2, 6-3 win over Sato.

In the doubles semifinals last Friday, Iwabuchi and Sato teamed up to beat Cho and Kim, 6-4, 6-4, while Jobe and Lum-Tucker posted a 6-4, 5-7 (10-6) victory over Choi and Park.

# Career game from Billones as Air21 outshoots Red Bull

**MANILA, Philippines**—It is not often Edgar 'Egay' Billones is given the chance to shine for Air21. When he is, he sure pounces on it.

With Billones coming off the bench to deliver a career game, the Express exacted revenge over Red Bull, 119-109, Wednesday evening in the Smart PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Billones finished with a career-high 23 points, anchored on 8-of-9 field shooting, including 4-of-5 from beyond the arc. He also had two rebounds and did not have any foul or turnover in 19 minutes.

All those pleased Air21 coach Bo Perasol no end, especially since his team avenged its first round loss to Red Bull and bounced back from a 92-97 loss to Barangay Ginebra last Saturday. The Express now tote a 7-5 win-loss slate in a tie at second with their victim and idle Talk 'N Text.

"Obviously, Egay delivered the goods for us tonight," noted Perasol. "But it is not only Egay who should deliver, but the other guys as well."

Air21, which had won six of seven conference games when limiting opponents below 100 points and 0-4 when not, finished with a season high-tying output and allowed the Barakos to go way beyond the century mark.

Despite his team deviating from the defensive attitude he has been trying to hammer home of late, Perasol will not complain.

"This is one game in which our offense made the win for us," said Perasol. "Kung natalo kami magagalit ako, pero ngayon hindi."

Perasol also pointed out that his team managed to more than hold its own against Red Bull, leading to leads of as many as 13 points twice and said with a smile: "They were able to score in transition and in some sets, but we also made our points so no complaints here."

Adam Parada finished with 28 points and 12 rebounds, but missed a short stab and committed two turnovers in the last minute, leading to insurance points by Ranidel de Ocampo and Billones.

**Air 21 119** – Billones 23, David 20, Thomas 19, Santos 17, De Ocampo 12, Arboleda 11, Se 8, Canaleta 5, Kramer 3, Cruz 1, Sotto 0.

**Red Bull 109** – Parada 28, Baguio 18, Pennisi 16, Adriano 10, Ybanez 9, Robinson 7, Cruz 6, Duncil 4, Alvarez 4, Bugia 3, Najorda 2, Sharma 2.

**Quarterscores:** 31-23, 58-54, 91-82, 119-109. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

## NMI

*From Page 28*

selections as well.

BANMI, which will organize the 2009 Oceania Basketball Tournament, anticipates that the event will be held during the last week of June.

The site of competition will likely be the Marians High School Gymnasium and the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and most of the athletes will be housed and fed at MHS.

During the tournament, the Congress of FIBA Oceania will also meet, during which representatives of the 21 basketball federations of the Oceania Zone will elect their president and other officers for the ensuing four years.

The Oceania Basketball Tournament is held every four years, unless basketball is on the sports program for the Pacific Mini Games. Next year's Pacific Mini Games, which will be held in the Cook Islands, will not include basketball. The tournament was not held in 2005, since basketball was contested in the Palau Pacific Mini Games that year.

## BUTCH

*From Page 28*

mente said he would also like to thank his company, Thai Massage, for sponsoring him in the event.

Carey, for her part, finished sixth overall and tops among women cyclists, crossing the finish line in 1:03:21.

Like Sublemente, Carey has been a familiar face in previous local XTERRA races. She said her participation in the Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race was also in preparation for the Half Ironman Triathlon she will compete in later this month in Kansas.

A total of 20 mountain bike enthusiasts took part in last Saturday's race, including Tyce Mister and Nate Hawley who came in second and third in the men's division behind Sublemente with times of 57:20 and 57:22, respectively.

Dr. Florian Braig (59:12) and Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation president Ross Quinn (1:01:17) completed the Top 5.

For the women, Heather Kennedy avoided all the dogs this time and finished second in a time of 1:20:22, while Kimiko Hasegawa overcame scrapes and falls to come in third, crossing the finish line in 1:31:27.

Marianas Visitors Authority's Ed Diaz said the Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race was sponsored by MVA and Hyatt Regency Saipan.

He also thanked the support given by Pacific Islands Club, Yano's Ent., Inc., Saipan World Resort, Saipan Grand Hotel, Tasi Tours and Bus Transportation, Northern Marianas Athletics, Rosss Quinn (who helped clear the course), and landowners in Mt. Tapochao.

All proceeds from the Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race will go into a charitable trust fund account that will provide an opportunity for non-profit organizations to submit a grant application. The event was also held as part of the Tourism Month Activities.

## 72

*From Page 28*

They were followed by the tandem of Jeff Taylor and Adam Hardwicke with the pair of Ray San Nicolas and Ben Duenas settling for third place.

Taylor/Hardwicke and Nicolas/Duenas actually finished tied with identical gross scores of 66. The former, however, took runner-up honors on a scorecard tiebreak.

Champions in the low net and low gross divisions went home with $500 each, while runners-ups didn't go empty handed with cash prizes of $300 (second place) and $200 (third place).

In the closest to the pin competition, Clarence Tenorio Jr. was without peer in hole No. 3, while Laolao Bay's Tom McKenzie won hole No. 7. Hole No. 13 belonged to Ed Manglona.

In the longest drive competition, none was better than Federico Flores who drove the golf ball 280 yards out. Joun Park topped the most accurate drive in hole No. 17.

Zhan, for his part, was lucky as he can be as he won a Hard Rock Café leather jacket in a raffle participated in by golfers that wore HRC T-shirts in the golf course.

No player managed to cash in on any the four hole-in-one challenges in the Inaugural Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament. The hole-in-one prizes were 25,000 from Bank of Hawaii, $15,000 from Takagi & Associates, $5,000 from Century Insurance Company, Ltd., and a Yamaha R-6 Sports Bike from Joeten Motors.

## JUNIOR

*From Page 28*

The Major League District Tournament will be played at the new Joaquin Ogo Sr. Baseball Field in Sinapalo, while the Senior League District Tournament will be held at the old ballpark in Songsong Village.

Ada and Borja noted that while playing venues will be different, the opening ceremony for both tournaments will be held at the Joaquin Ogo Sr. Baseball Field at around 9am.

All three main islands of the CNMI will be represented in the Major and Senior district tournaments, as all-star teams from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will play in a double round-robin format to decide which team will represent the Commonwealth in the regional tournaments for both divisions.

No district tournament will be held in the Big League division, as only Saipan has an all-star team in the age group.

For more information about the district tournaments of the Junior, Major, and Senior leagues, call Borja at 285-1980.

Borja will serve as the tournament director in all district tournaments in the CNMI and was also appointed in the same capacity for the Junior League Regional Tournament by no less than Ada.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### MLB STANDINGS

**AMERICAN LEAGUE**

**East Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tampa Bay | 34 | 22 | .607 | – |
| Boston | 34 | 24 | .586 | 1 |
| Toronto | 31 | 27 | .534 | 4 |
| New York | 28 | 27 | .509 | 5 1/2 |
| Baltimore | 26 | 28 | .481 | 7 |

**Central Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chicago | 30 | 25 | .545 | – |
| Minnesota | 28 | 27 | .509 | 2 |
| Cleveland | 25 | 30 | .455 | 5 |
| Detroit | 23 | 32 | .418 | 7 |
| Kansas City | 22 | 34 | .393 | 8 1/2 |

**West Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Los Angeles | 33 | 24 | .579 | – |
| Oakland | 29 | 27 | .518 | 3 1/2 |
| Texas | 29 | 28 | .509 | 4 |
| Seattle | 21 | 35 | .375 | 11 1/2 |

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**

**East Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Florida | 31 | 23 | .574 | – |
| Philadelphia | 32 | 25 | .561 | 1/2 |
| Atlanta | 29 | 27 | .518 | 3 |
| New York | 27 | 27 | .500 | 4 |
| Washington | 24 | 33 | .421 | 8 1/2 |

**Central Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chicago | 35 | 21 | .625 | – |
| St. Louis | 33 | 24 | .579 | 2 1/2 |
| Houston | 30 | 27 | .526 | 5 1/2 |
| Milwaukee | 28 | 28 | .500 | 7 |
| Cincinnati | 27 | 29 | .482 | 8 |
| Pittsburgh | 26 | 29 | .473 | 8 1/2 |

**West Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arizona | 31 | 25 | .554 | – |
| Los Angeles | 27 | 28 | .491 | 3 1/2 |
| San Francisco | 23 | 33 | .411 | 8 |
| San Diego | 23 | 34 | .404 | 8 1/2 |
| Colorado | 20 | 36 | .357 | 11 |

**Yesterday's Games**

Seattle 5, Detroit 0
Tampa Bay 2, Chicago White Sox 0
Boston 6, Baltimore 3
N.Y. Yankees 7, Minnesota 6, 12 innings
Kansas City 4, Cleveland 2
Texas 8, Oakland 4
L.A. Angels 3, Toronto 2, 10 innings
Chicago Cubs 5, Colorado 4
N.Y. Mets 3, L.A. Dodgers 2
Cincinnati 8, Atlanta 7, 10 innings
San Diego 5, San Francisco 1
Milwaukee 4, Houston 1
Florida 7, Philadelphia 3
Pittsburgh 14, St. Louis 4
Arizona 4, Washington 0

### MEMORIAL SCORES

**DUBLIN, Ohio** (AP)–Scores Saturday from the Memorial, a $6 million (£3.9 million) U.S. PGA Tour event at the 7,366-yard, par-72 Muirfield Village Golf:

**THIRD ROUND**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mathew Goggin | 65-72-71 | 208 |
| Mike Weir | 71-72-68 | 211 |
| Justin Rose | 68-73-70 | 211 |
| Matt Kuchar | 68-72-71 | 211 |
| Kenny Perry | 66-71-74 | 211 |
| Jerry Kelly | 66-72-73 | 211 |
| Nick O'Hern | 70-70-72 | 212 |
| J.B. Holmes | 74-69-70 | 213 |
| Geoff Ogilvy | 69-71-73 | 213 |
| Luke Donald | 68-71-74 | 213 |
| Vaughn Taylor | 71-73-70 | 214 |
| Bill Haas | 74-72-69 | 215 |
| Joe Ogilvie | 69-75-71 | 215 |
| Steve Lowery | 70-70-75 | 215 |
| Nick Watney | 68-80-68 | 216 |
| Stuart Appleby | 72-76-68 | 216 |
| Pat Perez | 70-73-73 | 216 |
| Phil Mickelson | 72-75-70 | 217 |
| Dudley Hart | 73-73-71 | 217 |
| Stewart Cink | 71-77-69 | 217 |
| Robert Allenby | 69-76-72 | 217 |
| Carl Pettersson | 68-75-74 | 217 |
| Jason Bohn | 72-71-74 | 217 |
| Rocco Mediate | 70-73-74 | 217 |
| Tom Lehman | 76-70-72 | 218 |
| Jim Furyk | 71-74-73 | 218 |
| Rod Pampling | 67-74-77 | 218 |
| Ryuji Imada | 75-72-72 | 219 |
| Nathan Green | 75-71-73 | 219 |
| Johnson Wagner | 78-67-74 | 219 |
| Brett Quigley | 67-78-74 | 219 |
| Ben Curtis | 76-72-71 | 219 |
| John Mallinger | 71-74-74 | 219 |
| Ryan Moore | 73-71-75 | 219 |
| Sean O'Hair | 75-75-69 | 219 |
| Bo Van Pelt | 71-76-73 | 220 |
| Kevin Na | 75-72-73 | 220 |
| Todd Hamilton | 70-76-74 | 220 |
| Chris DiMarco | 75-72-73 | 220 |
| Cliff Kresge | 73-73-74 | 220 |
| Daniel Chopra | 76-68-76 | 220 |
| Fred Couples | 72-71-77 | 220 |
| Mark Wilson | 73-74-74 | 221 |
| Arron Oberholser | 77-71-73 | 221 |
| George McNeill | 73-73-75 | 221 |
| Bart Bryant | 76-74-71 | 221 |
| Jeff Quinney | 71-79-71 | 221 |
| Tim Wilkinson | 72-75-75 | 222 |
| John Senden | 71-78-73 | 222 |
| Zach Johnson | 71-79-72 | 222 |
| Woody Austin | 71-76-76 | 223 |
| John Rollins | 71-76-76 | 223 |
| Ian Poulter | 75-72-76 | 223 |
| Ken Duke | 71-77-75 | 223 |
| Jon Mills | 73-76-74 | 223 |
| Trevor Immelman | 72-78-73 | 223 |
| Richard Green | 72-75-77 | 224 |
| Tim Petrovic | 73-75-76 | 224 |
| Charley Hoffman | 74-74-76 | 224 |
| Sergio Garcia | 72-77-75 | 224 |
| K.J. Choi | 76-74-74 | 224 |
| Davis Love III | 74-74-77 | 225 |
| Dustin Johnson | 75-73-77 | 225 |
| Lee Janzen | 74-76-75 | 225 |
| Aaron Baddeley | 74-76-75 | 225 |
| Travis Perkins | 76-74-75 | 225 |
| Paul Casey | 76-71-79 | 226 |
| Shaun Micheel | 71-77-78 | 226 |
| Parker McLachlin | 73-77-76 | 226 |
| Chez Reavie | 73-77-76 | 226 |
| Jin Park | 75-75-76 | 226 |
| D.J. Trahan | 73-76-78 | 227 |
| Tom Pernice, Jr. | 71-75-82 | 228 |
| Brett Wetterich | 76-73-81 | 230 |
| Dean Wilson | 78-72-83 | 233 |
| Anton Haig | 71-79-83 | 233 |

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# 2008 Major League Championship

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

SaipanCell Patriots players exchange high-fives with Dragons players following their 2008 Major League championship game last May 25 at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Field in Oleai.

In a show of team spirit, SaipanCell Patriots players huddle for one last time this season with their managers and coaches at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

SaipanCell Patriots are all smiles after capturing their third straight Major League championship last May 25 at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Field in Oleai. The three-time champs dominated the Dragons en route to 15-0 victory.

SaipanCell Patriots recite the "Little League Pledge" before the start of their 2008 Major League championship game against the Dragons last May 25 at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Field in Oleai.

Tre Rabauliman gets ready to hit against the Dragons in the championship game of the 2008 Major League season at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Field in Oleai.

Players of the SaipanCell Patriots rest at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and contemplate about their successful three-peat in the Major League last May 25.

SaipanCell Patriots celebrate by whopping it up and throwing their baseball caps after capturing their third straight Major League championship last May 25 at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Field in Oleai.

SaipanCell Patriots players gesture with the No. 1 sign following their 15-0 victory over the Dragons.

**Korea's Cho advances to Challenge singles finals**

Min Hyeok Cho's advanced to the finals of the 5th Annual Guam International Tennis Open's 16-player Male Singles Challenge Invitational and Eight-Team Men's Doubles Draw after winning his semifinal game against Hawaii's Ikaika Jobe last Saturday. 26

Saipan Tribune
Sports

**Ginepri prevents US shutout in Paris**

Robby Ginepri is easy to spot at the French Open in his oh-so-American get-up: black baseball cap turned backward and sleeveless T-shirt. 24

# NMI to host '09 Oceania Basketball Tournament

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 2009 Oceania Basketball Tournament will be held in the CNMI after the International Basketball Federation, or FIBA, awarded the hosting of the event to the Commonwealth.

The CNMI's hosting was decided during a meeting of the Board of the Directors of the Oceania Zone held last May 16 in Sydney, Australia.

Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Elias Rangamar was excited and happy about the award of the tournament to the CNMI.

"We're really looking forward to hosting the countries of the Pacific next year. We're going to put on a first-class tournament. It will be a great opportunity for the people of the Northern Marianas to get to see world-ranked teams from Australia and New Zealand, and for our men's and women's teams to compete against the best of the Pacific. We're grateful to FIBA Oceania for giving us this opportunity to show what we can do," he said.

Rangamar

Rangamar also extended special thanks to Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez, who expressed strong support for the CNMI's bid.

The 2009 Oceania Basketball Tournament will feature men's and women's teams from across the Pacific.

Participation is limited to eight men's and eight women's teams. Australia and New Zealand have each committed to participate.

As host country, the CNMI will also enter men's and women's teams. The remaining five slots for men and for women will be filled by FIBA Oceania, which will select teams from those countries which have submitted a bid to participate.

The field is likely to be filled out by the powerhouses of basketball in the Pacific Islands. Guam, Fiji, and New Caledonia have all expressed interest, and are likely selections. Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Tahiti, and American Samoa are possible

*See NMI on Page 26*

# Butch, Mieko top Ayuda Mountain Bike Race

By MARK RABAGO
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Seasoned triathletes Butch Sublemente and Mieko Carey used their experience from past stagings of the XTERRA Saipan Championship to top last Saturday's Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race.

Sublemente was the first to cycle down from the 1,554-foot Mt. Tapochao and cruised to the finish line at the American Memorial Park in a sterling time of 57:02.

The 35-year-old Thai Massage employee said his stints in previous local XTERRA races proved handy in negotiating the mountain bike course, as the race was a little bit similar to the Jewel of the XTERRA Global Tour's off-road bike segment.

He said he would like to dedicate his first ever local bike race win to his wife Ritchell and their three-year-old daughter, Alianna. Suble-

*See BUTCH on Page 26*

MARK RABAGO

Mieko Carey, left, and Butch Sublemente celebrate as they cross the finish line of last Saturday's Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race.

# Junior district tourney this coming weekend

By MARK RABAGO
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The Junior League District Tournament will be held next weekend, June 7 and 8, at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

District administrator James Ada and Saipan Little League vice president Mike Borja said the tournament will pit the Saipan Junior League All-Stars against the Tinian Junior League All-Stars in a three-game series to determine who will represent the CNMI in the Junior League Regional Tournament set at the end of this month also at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Ada

Borja

Ada and Borja said the Junior League District Tournament will kick off with a 9am opening ceremony that will feature a parade of teams led by the Saipan Junior League All-Stars and the Tinian Junior League All-Stars.

Saipan's all-star teams in the Major League, Senior League, and Big League will also join the parade of teams.

Ada and Borja, meanwhile, said that the district tournaments for the Major League and Senior League will be held two weeks from now in June 12 and 13 on Rota.

*See JUNIOR on Page 26*

# 72 take part in Chamber golf tourney

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

A total of 36 pairs made up of 72 players took part in last Saturday's Inaugural Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

Of the participants in the two-person, best-ball competition, none shone brighter or used less shots to complete 18 holes than the pair of Kim Kyo Na and Zhang Hua Long.

Kim and Zhang topped the low net and low gross categories but only went home with the former because tournament rules only allow teams to win one award.

MARK RABAGO

Kim Kyo Na and Zhang Hua Long show off their winnings after topping the low net category of last Saturday's Inaugural Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament. Joining them in photo are Chamber president James T. Arenovski, left, and awards banquet host Jay Santos. Right, retired Superior Court presiding judge Edward Manibusan and former national golfer Nick Sablan pose with their championship trophies after winning the low gross category.

The duo thus won the low net double Peoria award after taming the greens and fairways with a net of 69, built around a gross of 63 (32-31) and a handicap of -6.

Awards banquet host Jay Santos and Vince Seman finished runner-up in the low net category, firing a 69.20 after their gross of 74 (36-38) was sliced by their 4.8 handicap.

P.J. Houn and Yasu Irinaka wound up third with a net of 69.6. The duo recorded a gross of 66 (33-33) and had a handicap of -3.6.

With Kim and Zheng no longer eligible to win in the low gross category, retired Superior Court presiding judge Edward Manibusan and former national golfer Nick Sablan took the plum after combining for a gross score of 64 (31-33).

*See 72 on Page 26*